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## Government support falls by 5%

Public support for the Government dropped over the past week, with 38 per cent of respondents in a Mori opinion poll for *The Economist* saying they would vote Conservative at a general election, as against 42 per cent last week. The poll taken on Tuesday and Wednesday after the sinking of the General Belgrano and as the news of the HMS Sheffield's destruction became known, showed support for the Liberal/SDP Alliance at 29 per cent and Labour support at 32 per cent.

## World Cup boycott call

Scotland's football players' union have called for a World Cup boycott because of the participation of Argentina. English players have rejected the idea as being "premature".

## Filibuster risk to Ulster Bill

Senior ministers seem to accept the possibility that the Government's Northern Ireland Bill might be filibustered into the ground by hardline Commons opponents when it goes into its committee stage on the floor of the House.

## Reagan clears budget hurdle

President Reagan cleared the first important hurdle in his second drive to achieve a budget compromise by mobilising Senate Republicans behind a new 1983 federal spending package approved by the budget committee.

## A-plant setback

Construction of the Bilbao nuclear power plant has been halted against when employees walked off the site after the killing of the chief engineer by ETA.

## £3m Labour plea

Unions will be asked to contribute £3m to the Labour Party for the next general election and also to help to reduce the party's overdraft.

## Street 'ambush'

The police are treating seriously reports that private contractors were ambushed and attacked while collecting rubbish during a dustmen's strike in Wandsworth, south London.

## Document order

Lord Cockfield, Minister of State at the Treasury, has been ordered by a High Court judge in London to hand over government papers on British airport landing charges.

## Monopoly trial

Thomson Newspapers and Southern Inc, Canada's largest newspaper chain, are to stand trial on monopoly charges arising from the closure of the *Ottawa Journal* and the *Winnipeg Tribune*.

## Poll results

Full details of yesterday's local government election results will appear in *The Times* tomorrow together with an analysis by Mr Ivor Crewe, project director of British Election Studies at the University of Essex.

## 'French' Proms

This year's Proms season, opening on July 16, has a distinct French theme to its 57 concerts. The programme is up, but a BBC-British Rail scheme offers substantial saving on fares for connoisseurs.

## Preview

On Sunday, 18,000 runners will set off from Greenwich Park to Westminster Bridge. The London Marathon was established last year as one of the capital's great sporting occasions, and today's Preview, the 16-page arts and entertainment guide published each Friday with *The Times*, contains a detailed map of the course.

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Why Mrs Thatcher must bend a little on the Falklands, by David Watt; the Pope, Catholics and contraception; fueling the petrol lead debate.  
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# Two more Harriers reported lost in Falklands zone

Two of the British task force's Sea Harrier fighter-bombers were lost yesterday in the Falkland exclusion zone and their pilots missing, presumed dead. There were rumours of an "accident" on the aircraft carrier *Hermes*, while the Ministry of Defence refused to discuss any further task force casualties.

Peru's ceasefire plan, which won Britain's provisional agreement, collapsed when Argentina refused to consider any withdrawal of its troops from the Falklands.

United Nations peace efforts were still meeting obstacles, and there was growing concern in the American State Department that the crisis will badly damage Washington's long-term interests in Latin America.

The Ministry of Defence said 20 officers and men are presumed dead and 24 injured in the HMS Sheffield disaster.

## Sheffield toll put at 20

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

Two Sea Harrier aircraft from the British task force were reported to have been lost inside the Falklands exclusion zone last night.

The report came shortly after the Ministry of Defence had refused to discuss any further casualties, operational or accidental, involving the task force.

There had been persistent rumours in London, Washington and Buenos Aires about an "accident" on HMS *Hermes*, one of the two task force carriers, which is serving as flagship for Rear Admiral John Woodward.

The ministry spokesman, Mr Ian MacDonald, said at a briefing last night that there had been further operations reported in the South Atlantic. He refused, significantly, to answer several questions about an "accident" on *Hermes* however, confirming only that the ship was still in action.

The two pilots of the Harriers were said last night to be missing, presumed dead, and their next of kin had been informed.

The loss of two aircraft brings down the total number with the task force from 20 to 17. The reports, however, still awaited official confirmation last night.

Twenty officers and men are "presumed dead" after the disaster in the South Atlantic on Tuesday when the destroyer HMS *Sheffield* was struck by an Argentine missile and caught fire.

A further 24 sustained injuries and are receiving medical treatment. Only one of these is on the list of "seriously ill", the Ministry of Defence announced last night. The other 242 members of the crew are all well, according to Mr Ian MacDonald, the ministry spokesman, and have been transferred to other ships in the task force. All next of kin have been informed.

The spokesman appealed to the news media to "respect the grief and privacy of all the families involved".

Mr John Nott, the Defence Secretary, said that he was giving high priority to Sea- Wolf in the defence programme.

The casualty list: Deceased: Petty Officer (Marine Engineering, Mechanical), David Briggs, aged 25, of Lee-on-Solent. Presumed dead: Lieutenant Commander John Woodward, 40, of Stubbington; Lieutenant Commander David Balfour, 37, of Hindhead; Sub-Lieutenant Richard Emly, 36, of Havant; Master at Sea Brian Welsh, 34, of Gate-

### FALKLANDS ROUNDUP

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Mr MacDonald made it clear that there had been no reports of further action involving the task force. Patrols to enforce the total exclusion zone around the Falkland Islands were continuing.

Mr MacDonald pointedly refused to answer questions about an "accident" involving HMS *Hermes*, the task force's flagship.

The *Hermes*, he said, was still in action. But I am not able to go into details of whether or not there has been an accident.

He was also questioned about the failure of HMS *Sheffield*'s advanced radar and air defence missiles to protect it from the Exocet. It was generally recognized that such missiles were among the most difficult to counter. Plans were in hand to improve the Sea Wolf anti-missile missile, which is now fitted to only two of the warships known to be with the task force.

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head, Tyne and Wear. Petty Officer Cook Robert Fagan, 34, of Stubbington; Acting Chief Weapons Engineering Mechanic Michael Till, 35, of Stubbington; Weapons Electrician Kevin Sullivan, 35, of Portsmouth; Weapons Engineering Mechanic 2 Barry Wallis, 20, of Portchester; Cook Neil Goodall, 20, of Enfield; Leading Cook Tony Marshall, 31, of Gosport; Cook Andrew Swallow, 18, of Bembridge, Isle of Wight; Weapons Electrical Artificer 1 Anthony Eglington, 35, of Purbrook, Hants; Petty Officer Weapons Engineering Mechanic (Radio) Anthony Norman, 25, of Gosport; Leading Marine Engineering Mechanic (Mechanics) Allan Knowles, 31, of Gosport; Cook David Osborne, 26, of Portsmouth; Leading Cook Adrian Wellstead, 26, of Portsmouth; Catering Assistant Darryl Cope, 21, of Stourport; Lai Chi Keung, 31, of Hongkong; Cook Kevin Williams, 20, of Gosport.

An angry argument emerged last night between editors and the Government over press and broadcast coverage of the Falklands action. Mrs Thatcher complained in the Commons that she had heard from people who watched and listened more than she did that the Argentine and British forces were "almost being treated as equals".

The Prime Minister claimed that "many people" were concerned that the case for British troops was not being put over fully and effectively.

The case emerged in Whitehall that Mr Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, and senior officers had many complaints over what they saw as the surfeit of armchair strategists in broadcast and press coverage.

Parliamentary report, page 4

### Early breakthrough not expected

## Junta stands by its terms

From Christopher Thomas, Buenos Aires, May 6

Argentina was last night standing by the main elements of its preconditions for a negotiated settlement of the Falklands crisis. Despite the flurry of diplomatic activity, the feeling in Buenos Aires was that a breakthrough was not imminent.

The Government said it could not accept the withdrawal of troops from the islands as a precondition for negotiations and insisted that it would not enter talks until hostilities ended and international sanctions were lifted.

For the first time since the crisis began a Cabinet Minister was authorized by the junta today to outline "the Government's position at a press conference."

Senator Amadeo Frugoli, the Defence Minister (who as a civilian ranks as a comparatively junior member of the administration), was asked to state the circumstances

under which troops would be withdrawn, said: "Argentina has maintained that its undeniable claim of sovereignty over the islands be recognized as such. Provided it does not offend our honour and legitimate rights we are prepared to consider withdrawing the troops."

That response, according to the Foreign Ministry, should not be interpreted as a softening of Argentina's repeated insistence that it would negotiate everything but sovereignty.

Senator Frugoli emphatically denied that Argentina had sought military aid from the Soviet Union or anybody else, but did not rule it out in the future.

There were repeated rumours today that the British aircraft carrier *Hermes* was under attack, but Senator Frugoli said merely that information would be released in due course.

## 6% for doctors, dentists, civil servants and Forces

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

The Government yesterday announced that it had agreed to pay rises of about 6 per cent for civil servants, the armed forces and doctors and dentists. The forces will receive increases averaging 6.1 per cent, while civil servants will get an average 5.9 per cent rise as expected.

The increase for doctors and dentists will be 6 per cent and the Government has refused to pay an extra 3 per cent which was held over from last year's settlement.

All the increases exceed the 4 per cent target set for public service pay increases this year and ministers hope that the 2 per cent overshoot can be accommodated by savings, although as a last resort it was made clear yesterday that the Government would fund the excess from the contingency reserve.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher announced the awards in a written answer in the Commons yesterday. Increases

for non-manual civil servants will range from 4.75 per cent to 6.25 per cent, with the highest increases going to more experienced staff. The Government has accepted the decision of the Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal, which rejected the union's 13 per cent demand but also improved the Government's market forces' offer of nil to 5.5 per cent.

The 330,000 service personnel will get the 6.1 per cent average rise from April 1. The Review Body on Armed Forces Pay said in its report that the increases recommended were "in our judgment appropriate for implementation now. They represent our assessment of what is required to maintain adequate recruitment to, and especially retention in, the armed forces".

The Government accepted in full the review body's recommendation and also the report of the Doctors and

### Army Pay Rises

	Present	Recommended
Brigadier	£20,800	£22,750
Colonel	£17,480	£18,998
1st Colonel	£15,012	£16,337
Colonel	£14,000	£15,103
Captain	£8,674	£9,174
Lieutenant	£7,220	£7,674
2nd Lieutenant	£5,850	£6,249
WO1	£8,380	£8,813
Sergeant	£2,880	£2,980
Private	£4,084	£4,249

The recommended military salaries for officers are higher than the current rates by between 4.5 per cent and 8.9 per cent; for warrant officers and senior NCOs by between 5.8 per cent and 7 per cent; and for corporals and below by between 4 per cent and 5.8 per cent.

These are basic figures on appointment. Some members of the Armed Forces are eligible for special payments according to the nature of their duties and responsibilities.

Dentists Review Body, which recommended average 6 per cent increases from April 1. Last year the Government agreed to a similar increase



Mrs Thatcher leaves 10 Downing St for the now daily debate on the Falklands crisis in the Commons.

## Britain seen in US as on defensive

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, May 6

Britain has been put on the defensive, both militarily and diplomatically, as a result of the sinking of the Argentine cruiser General Belgrano and the destruction of HMS *Sheffield*.

The huge loss of life involved in the Belgrano incident has caused a substantial erosion of international sympathy, particularly in Europe, for Britain's position in the dispute. The missile attack on HMS *Sheffield* has revealed how vulnerable other ships in the task force could be to similar attacks.

The Sheffield incident also has dispelled the widely held view here that the Argentines would be either unwilling or unable to put up effective resistance to the British if fighting started.

Mrs Thatcher must now make some tough and painful choices, one source commented. Either she could go for an all-out military victory, which would be terribly bloody and would cause the further loss of world sympathy, or she could seek a diplomatic solution. However, the Argentines, having bloodied the British nose, seem in no mood to compromise on their insistence that Argentina's sovereignty over the Falklands should be assured.

There are already indications that Britain, in its search for a compromise, is prepared to soften its position about the need for the 1,800 islanders to be able to determine their own future.

Last week British spokesmen were insisting that the wishes of the islanders should be "paramount". Now, however, they are simply saying that a solution should include "a mechanism for the islanders to express their will and for their wishes to be respected."

Argentina has already taken the diplomatic initiative by being the first to announce broad acceptance of the peace proposal put forward by Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General.

The dramatic change in Britain's diplomatic and military position, in the American view, has been brought about by the sinking of the General Belgrano and the destruction of HMS *Sheffield*.

The officials are now urgently trying to devise a diplomatic formula which will help to extricate Britain from a tight corner and, at the same time, limit the damage which the crisis threatens to cause to American interests in Latin America and Europe.

There is real concern in State Department circles that the United States could emerge from the Falklands dispute in worse diplomatic shape than either Britain or Argentina. Its relations with Latin America have been severely damaged already as a result of its decision to side with Britain. There is now a danger that it could find itself on the side of the "loser" unless a diplomatic compromise can be found.

President Reagan, answering questions during a brief impromptu press conference at the White House today, did not comment on the latest attempts to find a peaceful solution. However, he told a questioner that he did not see a danger that the Falkland Islands conflict could grow into a wider war involving the United States and the Soviet Union.

He said the United States remained dedicated to a peaceful, negotiated settlement, based on Security Council resolution number 502. American officials emphasized that this resolution called both for a ceasefire and a withdrawal of Argentine forces. "The two principles of a ceasefire and a withdrawal have to be linked in accordance with resolution 502," a State Department spokesman said today.

The increase of 5.5 per cent for most doctors and dentists, with a special award of 6.3 to 8 per cent to junior hospital doctors, means that an extra £50m will have to be found.

It is thought the government plans to meet this extra spending from its contingency reserves and expects the rest to be met by health authorities.

The professional bodies are unhappy that the full rec-

ommendation of the review body for a further 3 per cent will not be implemented.

Dr John Havard, secretary of the British Medical Association (BMA), said that for the second year running the award left NHS doctors and dentists' pay below the levels thought appropriate by the review body.

The BMA has called on the Secretary of State for Health and Social Services to explain his reasons for this.

Almost half of the one million people working in the health services are taking home wages below the official government poverty line, according to the Confederation of Health Service Employees (Cohse) (Jeanette Mitchell writes).

Four hundred thousand nurses, including 200,000 nurses, take home less than £82 a week, the level at which Family Income Supplement is payable for a family with two children, Cohse claims in a new report, *The Facts on NHS* low pay, published yesterday.

Argentina rejects withdrawal

Peru's ceasefire move collapse

## Peru's ceasefire move collapse

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

A plan for a ceasefire in the South Atlantic from 5pm London time today, to which the British Government had provisionally agreed, collapsed yesterday, when the Argentine Government refused to contemplate withdrawing its forces from the Falkland Islands.

At the same time it became known that the Prime Minister had secured the authority of the full Cabinet for an attack on airbases in mainland Argentina if this is seen as imperative for the protection of the task force.

The Peruvian Government, which with American support had acted as intermediary, reported that it had decided, after informal discussions with Argentine representatives in Lima, that it judged it wiser not even to present the peace plan formally for fear of prejudicing its relations with the Argentine government and its future usefulness.

The Peruvians reported that the Argentines appeared confident that the United Nations Security Council would enforce a ceasefire which allowed them to remain on the islands. Britain is confident that this belief is baseless.

Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, said last night: "I am deeply disappointed that Argentine intransigence has once again frustrated our constructive initiative. Had they genuinely wanted peace they would have accepted the latest proposal put to them and we could have had a ceasefire in place by 5 pm tomorrow."

At Westminster the news destroyed hopes among MPs of all parties, which though modest, had grown stronger in the previous 48 hours, that a ceasefire was in prospect.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister at question time, showed some foreboding when Mr Michael Foot, the Opposition leader, suggested there was a chance of a ceasefire and a real peace settlement. Mrs Thatcher thought it likely that the Argentines were concentrating on a ceasefire without withdrawal — "a very evident ploy to keep them in possession of their ill-gotten gains".

Although a minority in the Labour Party, led by Mr Tony Benn, are urging the Government to agree to the unconditional ceasefire which Argentina seeks, Mr Foot and the Shadow Cabinet, with the majority of Labour MPs and the other opposition parties, agree with the Government's refusal to contemplate it.

Labour was last night insisting, however, that the failure of the Peruvian initiative obliged the Government to pursue a settlement with equal vigour through the United Nations. Mrs Thatcher yesterday told MPs that the Government welcomed the Secretary-General's ideas and could accept them as a framework for more specific proposals, and Mr Foot welcomed the tone of her response.

She told him that the Secretary-General's proposals were not specific, and there was no timetable, but they did link cessation of hostilities with withdrawal.

Labour backbenchers failed to get a promise from Mrs Thatcher in the Commons that there would be no British attack on the Argentine mainland.

Wary welcome for UN 'framework'

By Hugh Noyes, Parliamentary Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday gave a guarded and wary welcome to what she called "the ideas" put forward by the Secretary-General of the United Nations as the basis for a negotiated peace settlement of the Falkland Islands crisis. The Prime Minister emphasized that the ideas being put forward by Señor Perez de Cuellar should be looked on only as a framework on which to build and that they contained no specific details and there was no timetable attached to them. Mrs Thatcher told the House: "We welcome the ideas that the Secretary-General has put forward and we accept them as a framework on which more specific proposals can be built."

Pressed by Mr Michael Foot the Labour leader, to give her reactions to the various diplomatic moves now under way because there appeared to be a real move towards a sensible ceasefire, Mrs Thatcher replied that the government was right to be "very, very wary".

The Argentines, she said, could well be concentrating on a cease fire without withdrawal. That would be a very evident ploy to keep them in possession of their ill-gotten gains.

To loud cheers from the Conservative benches, Mrs Thatcher told the House: "The whole of amandatory resolution 502 has to be accepted and there can be no ceasefire unless it is accompanied by a withdrawal which is fully and properly supervised."

The Prime Minister pointed out that there had been various, rather conflicting reports about the Argentine response to the Secretary-General's ideas. It seemed clear that while they were very interested in a ceasefire, they might not accept withdrawal and might do it on a totally different basis or require undertakings about sovereignty.

Continued on back page, col 4

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## Ulster Bill could face Commons filibuster

By Anthony Devins, Political Correspondent

Senior ministers seemed to accept the possibility last night that the Government's Northern Ireland Bill might be filibustered into the ground by hardline Commons opponents over the coming months.

Mr Enoch Powell, the Official Ulster Unionist MP for (Down South), told Mr John Biffen, the Leader of the Commons, yesterday that the legislation, which has its second reading in the Commons on Monday, was regarded by almost every section in Northern Ireland as an affront.

He suggested that at a time of crisis over the Falklands the Government should withhold the Bill; and he was supported in that by two Conservative MPs, Sir John Biggs-Davison, John Forster, and Mr John Farr, Harborough.

Normally the expression of such hostility to the Bill, which proposes the creation of a 78-member Northern Ireland Assembly with an eventual devolution of power from Westminster, would prove no problem to a Government with a substantial majority of the House.

But it was disclosed last night that when the Bill goes into its committee stage, on the floor of the House, the Government will be in the position of a guillotine to curtail debate.

It was said last night that the Government would be

surprised if more than 20 Conservative backbenchers voted against the Bill on Monday's second reading vote. The official Labour Opposition will abstain.

But when the Bill goes into committee an alliance of Ulster Unionist and Conservative opponents can be expected to mount a filibuster to impede progress of the legislation.

One government source commented last night that there was no question of voting against the Bill; but rather the strength of opponents' lungs. The point was made that there was no precedent for imposing a guillotine on a measure of the Bill's character in post-war years, a fact which was volunteered with significant alacrity.

The doubt over the Government's commitment to its own legislation was countered last night by statements that ministers did indeed want to see the Bill reach the Statute Book.

Nevertheless it was also stated that as with the reform of the Lords, the point could come, if opposition in the Commons was concerted and apparently inexhaustible, when it was no longer "worth the candle".

The difficulty for ministers is that Mr Powell, Mr Biggs-Davison, Mr Forster and other likely opponents have in the past proved their stamina in parliamentary debate.

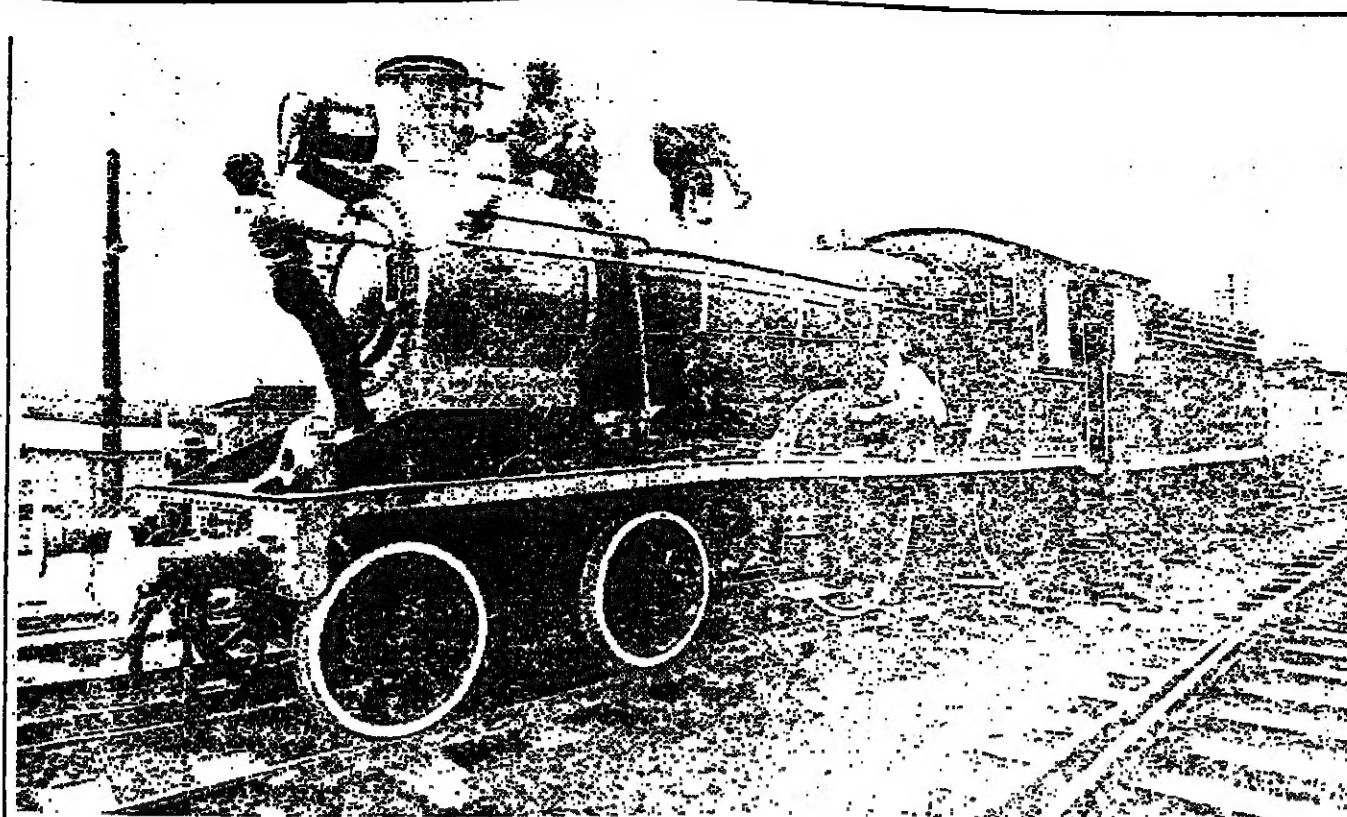
If Labour MPs, acting independently of the Opposition Front Bench, then take their cue from the hostility of Ulster's minority Social Democratic and Labour Party and the prime minister in Dublin, the Government's questionable determination to persevere with the legislation could well be wiped out.

### Police hunt post office raiders

Police in Co Down were hunting three men yesterday who had taken a village post office left an elderly woman dead. She was thought to have been stabbed (Craig Seton writes from Belfast).

Miss Maureen McCann, aged 64, the sister of Mr Hubert McCann, the postmaster at Killynally, died after a struggle with at least one of the raiders. The police said there was no thought to be a terrorist connexion.

A soldier and a policeman were in hospital yesterday after they were both injured in separate bomb incidents. The soldier was seriously wounded when a bomb attached to the security gates at Durham Street, close to Belfast city centre, exploded. The policeman received leg injuries when a booby-trapped bomb attached to his garage doors exploded.



A 1911 steam locomotive of the Pakistan Railways was the centre of attention among rail enthusiasts in Manchester yesterday after a month-long voyage from Karachi. The 440 locomotive is a gift from the Pakistan Government to the city's North-western Museum of Science and Industry. The engine was built at the Vulcan factory, near Manchester.

### Judge asks for airport documents

Lord Cuckfield, Minister of State at the Treasury, was ordered by a High Court judge in London yesterday to hand over government documents related to British airport landing charges.

"Documents as close as this to the Government have never before been ordered to be produced", Mr Justice Bingham said. The ministerial papers, which related to government policy decisions, were needed in the public interest, he said.

In a preliminary hearing the judge granted an application by Air Canada and Pan Am that the papers be handed over for his inspection before a High Court action in October when airlines will challenge increased landing charges at Heathrow. A stay of the order was granted pending an appeal.

Giving judgment in open court after a hearing in private, the judge said the airlines were alleging that the Secretary of State for Trade and the British Airport Authority had acted beyond their powers in raising airport fees more than two years ago.

Counsel for the Secretary of State had claimed that the papers should be withheld in the public interest as they contained details of formulation of government policy.

But, the judge said, the documents were necessary for the due administration of justice. "The concern of the court must surely be that its final decision should be made on a sure foundation of fact."

It was clear that the papers contained high-level government information and related to matters of great importance to the United Kingdom.

"Never before have ministers' working papers been produced", the judge said.

The consequences of production could be potentially far-reaching.

The airlines alleged that the Secretary of State acted outside his powers by imposing a financial target on the British Airport Authority.

"The documents are crucial to determination of this issue", the judge said.

It was the ministerial papers, rather than purely official documents, which should be handed over because it was the minister's thinking that was crucial.

In February last year 16 foreign airlines were ordered by Mr Justice Parker to pay the British Airport Authority an estimated £2m in Heathrow landing charges, withheld since the increases.

### Council fox hunt ban in South Glamorgan

From Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent, Cardiff

South Glamorgan County Council yesterday voted to ban fox hunting on its farms after a long and boisterous debate. Cheerful insults were exchanged across the crowded council chamber as Conservative members fought rearguard actions against acceptance of a proposal from the agriculture committee.

The committee advised the council "to take all steps available in it as landowners to prevent fox hunting across its 70 farms. The Glamorgan Hunt's country includes about 400 acres of the 3,000 acres covered by the farms. Mr Howard Gough, chairman of the agriculture committee, said that would soon attempt to introduce a similar measure against hare hunts.

Lord Brooks of Tremorfa, a former Labour chairman of the council, said that there was no need for a whip on his group at yesterday's meeting because all of its members condemned hunting. An attempt to disallow the committee's advice was defeated by 43 votes to 33.

Mr Steve James, a Labour councillor, said: "We as landlords feel that foxhunting is a cruel, barbaric and unnecessary so-called sport. We are going to do everything we can to outlaw such a stupid and ignorant activity."

Mr William Bain, a Conservative councillor, was annoyed by Labour claims that the agriculture committee had been given legal advice that a ban could be imposed on tenants.

"The tenants are trying to farm a well by keeping out the vermin, and the fox is vermin — like the bloody lawyers", he said.

Several Conservatives said that an important issue was the attempt by Labour councillors to interfere with tenants' rights to allow legal activity on the land they rented.

Mr Gough said that he might have favoured consultation with tenants after yesterday's meeting if the ban had not passed through his committee with a recommendation that tenants be told of it.

He added that there was "total opposition" to hunting in the Labour group. "I do not think it would make any difference if there had been consultation."

### Poultry welfare warning

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Poultry producers should remember that animal welfare was an emotive issue on which many people held sincere views which ran contrary to their's, Mr John Maund, chairman of the British Poultry Federation, told the federation's annual meeting in London yesterday.

"We would do well to accept and respect this, to take careful note of what our critics say, and to be sure that we satisfy ourselves that our practices and husbandry do not cause unnecessary suffering to the livestock in our care", he continued.

But the British poultry industry should not bear a greater financial burden arising out of welfare requirements than that borne by its continental competitors. If it did, then imports from countries with lesser standards and burdens should be prohibited.

The federation was determined to keep to the present system of battery cages for hens until the advantages of an alternative system were clearly demonstrated, Mr Maund said.

### CS gas used to end house siege

The police in Nottingham yesterday sprayed CS riot gas into the home of a man they said was mentally ill to end a seven-hour siege (Our Nottingham Correspondent writes).

It was the first time the gas, which was used during last summer's fighting between police and youths in Toxteth, Liverpool, had been used in Nottingham.

The man, aged 35, had barricaded himself in the loft of his home in Hendon Rise, St Ann's. He refused to leave, the police said, and threw tiles through a hole in the roof. When the man was overcome by the gas he was taken to a psychiatric hospital, where he was detained last night.

The spokesman said the man had armed himself with an axe. "We feared he may hurt himself. It was the only way to end the siege. In view of his condition it is unlikely that any charges will be preferred."

### Police check reports of dustcart ambush

By David Hewson

The police are treating seriously two reports that private contractors in the London Borough of Wandsworth were ambushed while collecting rubbish during a three-week dustmen's strike.

Mr Jan Leer, a director of Pritchard Industrial Services, the company responsible for the collection, says that on the latest occasion he was attacked by a gang of seven men, three of them wearing Wandsworth Borough Council donkey jackets.

The National Union of Public Employees dismisses Mr Leer's claims as crude propaganda and promises to prolong a dispute which is growing into the most serious conflict yet as a result of changing local authority refuse collection to private firms.

At the heart of the dispute is the character of Pritchard Industrial Services (PIS), part of a large and successful international group now intent on winning more lucrative local authority contracts.

PIS indirectly started the dispute in February when it won the contract for Wandsworth's street cleaning was marked by a visit to the borough by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment. Demonstrators threw eggs and biscuits at Mr Heseltine, but PIS gave him a letter of welcome to take over the council's rubbish disposal services as well for an annual cost of £2.1m compared with £2.9m at the moment.

When the Conservative-controlled council announced that it would tender for private rubbish collecting as a result of the PIS letter, the 200 dustmen decided to strike, and received support from 70 telephonists, and administration staff.

PIS is one of the 21 firms intending to tender and, according to Mr Ian Scott, a Nup area official, is seeking publicity to win the contract.

Mr Scott denies that the union has attempted any confrontation with the private collectors on the streets.

The two incidents reported to the police are said to have taken place in public roads, and PIS also says that the Oxford Road depot in Putney has been entered and 24 tyres on four cleansing vehicles slashed causing damage costing more than £2,000.

Street cleaners working for Pritchard can earn up to £130 a week, but the union claims that when pension, holiday and penalty clauses are taken into consideration they are worse off than their directly employed predecessors.

On Monday, the company's operations will be the focus of a union rally which is likely to stop refuse collection in neighbouring boroughs, and the local authority unions say they will support the Wandsworth strike indefinitely.

Scotland Yard said last night that investigations into the incidents were continuing but there was no present prospect of charges.

### Tebbit gives warning on ending benefit

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

Supplementary benefit could not be used as a "mattress" to support young people who preferred to be out of the Government's planned Youth Training Scheme, Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, said yesterday.

Confirming earlier speculation that the Government was intending to process the ending of supplementary benefit for 16-year-olds Mr Tebbit said that when the new Youth Training Scheme — on which young people are expected to receive a 25 week wage in earnest in September 1983 — some might not wish to take jobs, further education or training.

He added at a meeting of the West of England Engineering Employers' Association in Bristol: "That is the decision to make but it is not the duty of Government to provide with taxpayers' cash an incentive for them to opt out of working life."

Employers required to pay their workers statutory minimum wages will now be

### Chief constable wins bank freeze appeal

The police were entitled to a court injunction freezing the bank account of a man facing forgery and deception charges, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

By a two to one decision the court allowed an appeal by Mr Barry Paine, the chief constable of Kent, against the refusal of a High Court judge to continue the injunction.

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, held that the High Court had power to grant the police an injunction preventing the man from drawing on his bank account so that in due course ill-gotten money could be restored to the true owner.

"It would be a mockery of disposing of the goods or their proceeds pending his trial", Lord Denning said.

"The court must have power to grant an injunction to stop him doing so. As long as it could be traced, it could be frozen."

The accused man could apply to the court to release sums needed for his defence or other "proper payments", he added.

Lord Justice Donaldson said the chief constable should assert his right to detain the money by using a writ claiming a declaration to that effect. The freezing injunction would then be ancillary to that.

Disagreeing, Lord Justice Slade said the police themselves had no power under common law to detain intangible assets, even if they had reasonable grounds for suspecting they were traceable back to property obtained from another in breach of the law. The chief constable had established no legal or equitable right to the bank account to give him sufficient legal standing to seek an injunction.

### Rise in child deaths

There were 71 deaths from accidents in British farms last year, the lowest figure ever recorded, the Health and Safety Executive disclosed yesterday.

But, while welcoming the long-term downward trend, Mr Jim Whitaker, the Government's chief agricultural inspector, said that there was no room for complacency.

The number of child fatalities increased; of the 13 children who died, three were under four and another six under nine. Young children should be kept in safe play areas away from farm hazards, Mr Whitaker emphasized. Deaths from overturning tractors increased from seven in 1980 to 12 last year.

### Women's union plan

The Women's Farming Union said yesterday that it hoped to extend its retail surveillance scheme to all fresh fruit and vegetables in a campaign to improve quality.

Mrs Teresa Wickham, the union's chairman, said that, unlike the National Farmers' Union and the Consumers' Association, it represented the interests of both producers and consumers.

### Plea to Lords on Extradition

The United States Government was given leave yesterday to appeal to the Lords against a ruling by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court last month that Gall Jennings, aged 21, of Green Close, Highfield, Tyngington, Hampshire, should not be extradited to face charges in Los Angeles arising out of a road accident in 1978 in which a cyclist aged 13 died. The Divisional Court ruled that the offences were not sufficiently grave to warrant extradition.

### Action settled

A civil action against the Chief Constable of Merseyside and two police constables alleging wrongful arrest and assault on Mr Francis Anthony Allen, aged 39, of Lincoln Road, Huyton, ended abruptly yesterday at High Court when Mr John Roberts, for the defendants, said the matter had been settled.

### Demotion appeal

Police Constable Michael Hayden, aged 35, from Elton, near Hitchin, Hertfordshire, who was demoted from the rank of sergeant after refusing to tackle a man believed to be armed in October 1980 is to appeal against the decision at a Home Office tribunal.

### Buses stop

Crossville bus services on north Merseyside were halted yesterday when more than 100 drivers and engineers walked out from the Edge Lane depot in Liverpool in a dispute over working practices.

### Nalco action

The emergency committee of the National and Local Government Officers Association decided yesterday to take industrial action from Monday in support of a pay claim.

### Court escape

Six men on remand escaped from Manchester city magistrates court yesterday. They were to appear on charges of theft and burglary.

### Jailed for life

Daniel Horvath, aged 50, a builder, of Beech Avenue, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, was jailed for life yesterday at Northampton Crown Court for murdering Mr Francis Carberry.

### Wilcox wins £14,000 libel damages against 'Eye'

Mr Desmond Wilcox, the television producer, won libel damages of £14,000 in the High Court yesterday from Private Eye, the satirical magazine, which had accused him of misusing his position at the BBC to "line his own pockets".

Mr Justice Jupp said Private Eye had waged a "campaign of denigration" against Mr Wilcox, who is married to Esther Rantzen, of BBC television's *That's Life* programme.

"The damages must compensate for the anxiety and hurt he felt, the reproachful attitude he encountered in the BBC and the effect on his career prospects," the judge said.

He said four articles, one in 1975, two in 1980 and one in January this year, had libelled Mr Wilcox. A further four articles in 1975 were not defamatory on their own "but they must have reminded some readers of the original article".

The libellous articles wrongly accused Mr Wilcox of misusing his position as head of BBC General Features "putting himself forward as the writer of a book based on the BBC Explorers series, produced by his department."

The judge said although Mr Wilcox made about £20,000 he had been persuaded reluctantly to undertake

### Attempt to imprison magistrate fails

An attempt by Mr Casimir Simeon, a student, to jail Mr Eric Crowther, the West London Stipendiary Magistrate, for alleged contempt of court, was the height of absurdity, Lord Justice Ackner said in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court yesterday.

In February the court ruled in a test case that courts had no legal authority to hear any more prosecutions brought under the controversial "sus" law. The offence of being a "suspected person loitering with intent" was abolished.

Last November, Mr Crowther rejected a submission by Mr Simeon, of Philip Lane, Tottenham, north London, that he had no jurisdiction to hear a charge brought against Mr Simeon under the "sus" law.

Yesterday Mr Simeon represented by Lord Gifford, QC, sought to commit Mr Crowther for his failure on February 25 to comply with the Divisional Court ruling.

Lord Justice Ackner, sitting with Mr Justice Woolf, said the case raised matters of public importance affecting a number of outstanding cases and should be decided ultimately by the House of Lords. From a commonsense point of view the present application was wholly devoid of any merit and would be dismissed.

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## FALKLANDS CRISIS / 1

## Gaps in air cover gave Sheffield only a few seconds

Criticism by Mr John Lehman, United States Navy Secretary, of the lack of air cover over the British task force was causing some worry yesterday among Fleet Air Arm, which lost its battle to retain big-kill wing carriers in the Royal Navy 16 years ago.

With the defence in depth provided by one of the huge American nuclear-powered carriers, like the Eisenhower or Nimitz, the Argentine Super Etendard and its Exocet missiles would never have got within range of the destroyer HMS Sheffield.

Airborne Early Warning (AEW) aircraft from the carrier would have detected the Etendard and its electronic warfare planes would have jammed its radar and F4 Tomcats with their Phoenix missiles would have shot it down.

Rear Admiral John Woodward's task force in the South Atlantic has still about

19 Sea Harrier aircraft whose Sidewinder missiles have already demonstrated their ability to deal with encroaching aircraft if they are given enough time to scramble — evidence suggests that at least one of the carriers was near enough for the Harriers with their 250-mile radius of action to have been effective.

What the task force lacked, however, were AEW aircraft — like the old propeller-driven Gannet which used to fly from the fixed wing carriers like Ark Royal and Eagle and which by patrolling ahead of the task force could have looked far beyond the horizon and given the Harrier squadrons that precious time.

Nor would there be space on the Hermes and certainly not on Invincible to operate AEW alternatives like the Grumman Hawkeye which is in service still with the US fleet.

The advantages of AEW

were first appreciated in the Second World War when air forces working for the first time with radar soon began to realize how the earth's curvature could limit its effectiveness. Its importance in an age of jet aircraft and supersonic missiles was illustrated by the account given by Captain Sam Salt of the Sheffield who said later that his crew had had only a few seconds' warning before the missile struck.

Fear that the Soviet Union in wartime would attack Britain — and Western Europe — by flying in waves of low-altitude bombers, ducking below ground-based radar sets, has made land-based AEW a top priority for Nato. After much argument over how much, Nato countries finally agreed to finance a force of 18 Boeing AWACS aircraft which, based at Geilenkirchen, West Germany, will be able to cruise at around

30,000 and peer up to 300 miles over the horizon.

Britain, fed up by waiting for its Nato partners to make up their minds, went ahead on its own and commissioned 11 new British Aerospace Nimrod AEW aircraft — a variant of the successful Nimrod maritime reconnaissance planes — which will do a similar job over the North Sea integrating with the other AWACS force to the South. (A memorandum of understanding formalizing the integration of the two forces was by coincidence signed in Brussels the day after the Sheffield was hit.)

This is cold comfort for Admiral Woodward. The Nimrod AEW machines do not enter service until next year — those Nimrods now operating from Ascension Island are said to be only maritime reconnaissance machines, optimised for surveying the surface of the sea

and seeking submarines beneath it.

Even when they do come into service the Nimrod AEW planes would find it hard to operate above the task force. Although their performance characteristics have not been published they are thought to be similar to those of the AWACS which can remain at base. But Ascension Island is 3,500 miles away, which would seem to make continuous land-based AEW surveillance over the fleet impracticable.

Without any big carriers, shipborne AEW or land-based AEW aircraft to extend his antennae what else can Admiral Woodward do? Some industrial sources yesterday were complaining that if the Government had not given the new lightweight Seawolf to Marconi, the Navy would have been able to use the

Dutch Signal radar (which is ready for use) and installed the anti-missile missile — optimised to deal with sea-skimming missiles — much earlier than is now likely. Certainly there will be pressure to speed up and extend the Sea Wolf programme.

But again this is not likely to comfort the task force as it weighs up the options following the Sheffield disaster. The most likely conclusion they will come to is that whatever happens to the diplomatic process, they should avoid exposing their ships unnecessarily to Argentine aircraft and missile-firing vessels until the container ship Atlantic Conveyor arrives with 20 more Harriers. These will not provide a complete answer to the problem of how to win air supremacy but they might contribute towards it.

Henry Stanhope

## Nott insists EEC and Nato still behind UK

From Ian Murray, Brussels, May 6

Nato and the EEC remain solidly behind Britain in its efforts to force Argentina to withdraw its troops from the Falkland Islands, according to Mr John Nott, the British Minister of Defence.

In a tough, uncompromising statement issued after a session with the Nato defence minister here, Mr Nott promised that Britain is determined to find a peaceful solution would not falter but that a precondition was Argentine withdrawal in accordance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 502.

"If we have a ceasefire without Argentine withdrawal," he said, "democracy will have surrendered to aggression and the aggressor will be in possession of his spoils."

The was no hint in what Mr Nott had to say of any weakening of support for Britain. He was "greatly heartened" by a statement issued in the morning by the Nato Eurogroup (the 12 European members of the alliance) which condemned Argentina's armed invasion and failure to comply with the Security Council resolution; noted the importance of maintaining the principle that aggression or occupation of territory should not be allowed to succeed and urged the need to seek a negotiated settlement.

In answer to questions, he later said he felt confident that there would be a renewal of sanctions against Argentina by the EEC if they were needed. The sanctions came up for renewal on May 17 and Mr Nott said he hoped that a solution would be possible before then.

He would not be drawn into any discussion on the long term solution beyond saying it was recognized in London that there might have to be a transitional arrangement after the Argentine withdrawal.

The economic sanctions together with the naval pressure, he said, "provided the only hope of bringing about a peaceful and long-term solution which preserves the important principles for which the Western alliance stands."

Questioned later on this, he said: "My own belief is that there will not be a solution to this crisis if Britain is not prepared to keep up pressure to pursue its military presence. We are dealing with a military junta and so far — I emphasize so far — there has been no evidence that they understand anything but strength."

Mr Nott was careful to try to put the dispute into a North Atlantic context. The Nato response, he said, "provided irrefutable evidence of the strength of our commitment to the same ideals". It also represented a concrete expression of the growing recognition in Nato that Western interests were not limited to the treaty area.

"This is not to say there can be any deflection on our part from the alliance's primary purpose, which is to deter the Soviet threat," the Falklands crisis, he said, in an important sense had strengthened the allied deterrent in showing the solidarity of the countries and in proving Britain's defence capabilities "in a fashion that can leave few doubts in Soviet minds as to their readiness and effectiveness".

Mr Nott was aggressively defensive about the sinking of the Argentine cruiser. The General Belgrano. Its threat to the task force, he said, "was such that the task force commander could ignore it only at his peril".

He denied vehemently that Britain was the aggressor. "It was only by the grace of God," he said, "that we did not have a lot of our people killed when they initially invaded the Falkland Islands."

Asked about the slowness in confirming the casualties on board the Sheffield, Mr Nott said that as the survivors had been spread out among the fleet and as ships were, for their own safety, observing radio silence, it was not easy to obtain accurate information. This would be released as soon as it was obtained.

"I need hardly say that the sad losses that have occurred have strengthened our resolve to achieve the important aim we have set ourselves of electing the Argentinian forces."



Nott: uncompromising

## Diplomatic flurry

## Allies' pessimism worries Whitehall

By David Cross and Denis Taylor

The British Government has responded to the growing concern among its American and European allies about the recent clashes around the Falklands by assuring them that a peaceful settlement is still its main priority.

While officially claiming that they remain unperturbed by pessimistic voices from European capitals, particularly Bonn, after the sinking of the Argentine cruiser, Whitehall officials must have been deeply concerned by the apparent weakening of support for Britain's case.

But they were greatly heartened yesterday by the strong backing from Britain's European partners in Nato. A communiqué issued by European defence ministers emphasized "the importance of maintaining the principle that aggression or occupation of territory by force should not be allowed to succeed."

One Whitehall official argued that all West European countries, including Britain, were bound to have problems with public opinion once the Falklands crisis had broken out. But, he said, this was insufficient reason for the British Government to be deflected from its resolve to ensure that an aggressor did not keep his spoils.

Diplomatic activity to try to resolve the conflict without more loss of life was speeded up yesterday in various capitals of the Americas. In Lima, the Peruvians were urged by Britain to step up their lobbying in Buenos Aires. The British were asking the Peruvians to use their good offices to persuade Argentina to accept a revamped set of proposals which had the full backing of the United States.

The latest suggestions, which were regarded as important in London, were said to cover three essential points — the mechanics of an Argentine withdrawal from the Falklands; the establishment of an interim administration with some international participation; and negotiations for a long-term solution to the dispute without prejudging the question of sovereignty.

The proposals originated with President Fernando Belaúnde Terry of Peru and were subsequently refined by Mr Alexander Haig, the American secretary of state. Mr Francis Pym, the British Foreign Secretary, has also contributed ideas to the package, which is said to be much simpler than that originally floated by Mr Haig during his first peace mission.

The United States and Britain have felt the need to use the good offices of the Peruvians since Washington came down firmly on the side of Britain last week. It was still not clear yesterday how effective their intervention might be in Buenos Aires.

The latest flurry of diplomatic activity was described in Whitehall yesterday as crucial.

The House of Commons concluded that the capture of the Falklands now justifies whatever immediate measures should prove necessary to eliminate the capacity of Argentine forces to inflict unacceptable losses on the British fleet and notes that [the Government's] objectives have not changed their character or justification since it obtained the virtually unanimous support of Parliament for its Falklands Islands policy."

The call for necessary measures comes immediately after a reference to the attack on HMS Sheffield which was hit by a French-built Exocet missile believed to have been fired from a Super-Standard aircraft operating from a land base.

The list of signatories includes Mr George Gardiner (Leigham), Mr James Hill (Southampton), Mr John Stokes (Halesowen and Stourbridge), Mr Peter Lloyd (Farnham), Mr Trevor Skeet (Bedford), Mr Tony Marlow (Northampton, West), Mr John Carlisle (Luton, West), Mr Neil Thorne (Redbridge, Eford, South), Mr Ivor Stanbrook (Bromley, Epsom), Mr Percy Gieve (Solihull), Mr David Evans (Yardley), Mr Mark Wolfson (Sevenshaws), Mr Eldon Griffiths (Bury St Edmunds), Mr Geoffrey Dickson (Huddersfield, West), Mr Paul Hawkins (Worcester, South West) and Mr John Hannan (Exeter). More signatures were being added last night.

## Less support, poll shows

By Lucy Hodges

Support for the Government's handling of the Falklands crisis has dropped this week, according to a MORI poll conducted for The Economist and released yesterday.

Only 71 per cent of the sample said they were satisfied with Mrs Margaret Thatcher and her colleagues' handling of the crisis, compared with 76 per cent last week. Twenty five per cent are now dissatisfied compared with 20 per cent last week.

News of the destruction of the destroyer Sheffield came while the poll was being carried out, but the pollsters found that it did not significantly alter the balance of opinion. "It appears merely to have continued a trend — slightly against the Government — begun from the sinking of the Argentine cruiser at the weekend."

The poll found that 46 per cent were in favour of the sinking of the cruiser and 44 per cent against. By contrast, 81 per cent approved of the bombing of Port Stanley airport.

MORI interviewed 526 adults, most by telephone, from a sample previously interviewed in person.

## UN initiative

## Major obstacles still unresolved

From Zoriana Fysatwsky, New York, May 6

The positive response from both Britain and Argentina to the framework for peace in the Falkland Islands put forward by Señor Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, acknowledged a possible settlement, but does not bring prospects closer for an immediate solution to the crisis.

In their acceptance of the Secretary-General's "good offices" the Governments of Britain and Argentina today failed to resolve major differences over the crucial issues of ceasefire, withdrawal and sovereignty, making it clear that Señor Pérez de Cuellar will have to surmount major obstacles if he is to succeed in his peace efforts.

British sources say that the United Nations ideas offer no more than a skeletal outline of ways the United Nations might be useful in bringing about an end to the crisis which need to be filled in as the Secretary-General proceeds with his efforts. They appear at the moment to offer only a face-saving mechanism should the two parties agree the time is ripe for a settlement, and officials do not rule out the possibility that they could be dovetailed with plans presented made by Peru, or any number of peace proposals.

The United Nations proposals include, in general terms, provisions for withdrawal by the British Fleet and Argentine troops from the Falklands to be possibly overseen by United Nations peace-keepers or observers, negotiations on ultimate sovereignty over the islands under United Nations auspices, and a United Nations administration on the islands while talks continue. They are strikingly similar to the Peruvian proposals, but diplomats feel that a United Nations framework for peace is more beneficial to Argentina than to Britain.

This is because any initiative which springs from the Western hemisphere involving OAS powers, be they Peru or the United States, is more likely to produce quick results. An initiative taken up by the United Nations, has the risk of becoming mired in the different political shadings that are an integral part of the United Nations and this could in itself take a long time to consolidate its hold over the islands.

British sources, however, do say that Argentina only has to say it is ready to withdraw and abandon its insistence that sovereignty be predetermined for the Secretary-General's initiative to succeed.

It would then be possible to fill in the framework that would spell out the modalities of withdrawal, the terms of an interim administration and plans for long-term United Nations involvement in negotiations over sovereignty.

Meanwhile Britain has delivered its formal response to Señor Pérez de Cuellar and a spokesman said that the absence of armed exchanges in the previous 24 hours was an encouraging sign for the diplomatic efforts now underway.

Although Argentina's reaction yesterday had raised hopes of a breakthrough. It was clear that the Argentine Government in its reply was even less specific than Britain. Before handing over the response from the British government, Sir Anthony Parsons, the British delegate, told reporters, the reply was substantial and constructive. "It addresses all the Secretary-General's ideas in substance," he said.

Argentina is understood to have given a brief response, accepting in principle the Secretary-General's role. But deciding against commenting specifically on the various ideas.

With the acceptance of both sides, the Security Council has gone into private consultations to pick up where they left off yesterday. Ireland, which had requested a meeting, now appears to have backedtracked and sources say it realizes a call for a ceasefire would only play into the hands of Argentina.

## World's opinion

The Pope sent a message to Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, yesterday encouraging his efforts to settle the Falklands crisis, Renter reports from Rome.

A telegram signed by cardinal Agostino Casaroli, the Vatican Secretary of State, said the Pope was deeply worried about "the tragic news from the South Atlantic, where the military conflict is ever worsening."

The telegram said that the Pope hoped that the United Nations action would receive "a favourable reception" from Britain and Argentina and was "ardently praying" for this aim.

Geneva: Swiss newspapers have criticized British reac-

tion to the Falklands invasion, and Mr Rudolf Gnaegi, the former Defence Minister, told the Zurich Blick: "The English are fully in the right, but one thing is absolutely certain: they will lose the Falklands to the Argentines in case. What happens now has become a matter of prestige to England."

The Finanz und Wirtschaft said: "The sense of proportion Churchill advocated seems to have been lost."

Brussels: The European Parliament's 124-member Socialist group has called for an immediate Falklands ceasefire and a negotiated settlement based on United Nations Security Council Resolution 502.

## MoD gives reasons for hold-ups

By Stewart Tendler

The report of the Board of Inquiry set up on South Georgia to look into the circumstances of the death of an Argentine after the capture of the island is on its way back to Britain, the Ministry of Defence said yesterday.

A spokesman said no comment could be made about the inquiry until the papers reached Whitehall. The dead man, believed to be a sailor, was buried in Grytviken cemetery. Also on their way back to Britain are pictures of the recent actions at sea and the first attack on Port Stanley airfield.

The Ministry of Defence has been criticized for allowing the Argentines to get widespread newspaper and television coverage of their own pictures which accompanied claims that the runway at Port Stanley airfield had not been damaged.

Yesterday the ministry said that no pictures had arrived from either South Georgia, retaken almost two weeks ago, or the main task force. Pictures taken by official photographers and the Press Association have to be sent to Ascension Island 4,000 miles from the Falklands and then flown back to Britain.

At the moment ships were engaged in operational tasks, the ministry said. "Operational pictures had arrived in London, but these were used for intelligence purposes and were not normally released. Newspapers have also found that reports from their correspondents are being delayed by defence officials."

## Three essential elements Peru's solution called for 72-hour truce

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, May 6

The central feature of the Peruvian peace initiative for resolving the Falklands crisis — which at present appears to be the front-runner in various diplomatic solutions — is a call for an immediate 72-hour truce, according to Señor Fernando Schwalb, the Peruvian Ambassador in Washington and the country's first Vice-President.

A truce would be followed by a withdrawal of Argentine and British forces from the area after which negotiations would be held on the ultimate status of the islands. The negotiations would probably be held under United Nations auspices.

The main priority is to arrange a ceasefire," Señor Schwalb told The Times in an interview. "Once there is peace one can start to talk about the substance of the problem."

After initial disinterest, the British are now taking considerable interest in the proposals which President Belaúnde Terry first submitted last weekend. The British say that the Peruvian plan, which is more general and contains fewer details than the proposals put forward by Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, includes the three elements which the British regards as essential for a peaceful settlement.

These are: A withdrawal of forces; an interim administration with international participation; and negotiations to take place without prejudging the sovereignty issue.

However, at that stage, according to Señor Schwalb, Mr Pym did not show much interest in the Peruvian ideas. It was only after Mr Pym's return to London and the sinking of the Argentine and British ships that the British began seriously to regard the Peruvian plan as the basis for a diplomatic solution.

The proposed ceasefire would be in two stages. The first stage would last 24 hours and would allow both sides time to inform their forces to stop shooting. The second would last for 48 hours during which time, it is hoped, arrangements could be made for a withdrawal of forces.

Intercept Argentine jets. Figures buffeted by an icy wind and wearing combat clothing and Balachava helmets struggle to refuel and tend to the valuable machines which form such a vital part of the task force's protective screen.

Across on the Hermes, which flies the flag of Rear-Admiral John Woodward, the current situation must seem as tricky as some of the mathematical problems he solves for a hobby. The attack on the Sheffield has demonstrated the capabilities of the Argentine Air Force and served as a warning to Royal Navy warships which venture too close to the islands.

While control of the sea seems feasible, despite the Argentine submarines possibly to be in the area, dominating the skies against a numerically superior enemy could prove one of the hardest problems of the war.

From the admiral's bridge the flight deck presents an equally desolate scene. Sea Harriers, the pilots strapped into the cockpits, sit waiting for orders to scramble and intercept Argentine jets. Figures buffeted by an icy wind and wearing combat clothing and Balachava helmets struggle to refuel and tend to the valuable machines which form such a vital part of the task force's protective screen.

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## Bean eaters earn the fleet's respect

From John Witherow, on board HMS Invincible

One of the first reactions to the news of the destruction of the Sheffield came from a shrewd petty officer: "Everyone thought we were taking on a bunch of bean eaters but now they realize they are up against a well equipped outfit," he said.

While many would claim they never underestimated the Argentines, there has undoubtedly been a growing feeling of confidence in the task force which received a sharp jolt from Tuesday's losses.

The surprise attack in which Super-Exocet jets evaded the fleet's defences has shaken any complacency about the competence of Argentina's Air Force.

The attack showed considerable planning, skill and knowledge of the position of the fleet and an ability to respond rapidly to the British successes of previous days, including the sinking of a cruiser. One Harrier pilot on Invincible, talking about the shooting down of a colleague

from the Hermes over the Falklands, commented: "Those guys are a lot better than we gave them credit for."

Because of the setbacks, Invincible went on action stations from dawn to dusk the next day. The ship now more or less lives for action stations, aware that vigilance can mean survival in this increasingly vicious and complicated battle in the South Atlantic. The aircraft carrier is sealed up and at full alert for long periods, with the boredom of acute alarm.

This undoubtedly reached its zenith on Tuesday, when it was announced over the ship's public address system that the ship was under missile attack. The group of journalists on board, who had taken to the admiral's bridge with the misguided view that it is as good a place as any and at least possible to see the missiles coming, flattened

themselves on the deck along with everyone else.

The comment from a nearby crewman that "if it hits you won't know anything about it" was far from reassuring. When an anti-missile screen was fired from the ship, sounding remarkably like near-misses, various comments in our notebooks included "terrifying" and "periods of anxiety."

The sense of vulnerability is impossible to avoid because of the confinement in close quarters and the relative lack of protection provided by the hull. Modern warships do not have armour plating, unlike the old battleships, taking the view that the money is better spent on effective missile defences.

Apart from the klaxon which heralds action stations, the other dreaded and increasingly frequent announcement is "on anti-flash," signalling the need to cover bare skin because of

another possible attack. The rather chilling one which has thankfully not yet been used is "hit the deck," which means an imminent hit by missile or torpedo.

The cruise has become infectious and crewman now knock off for an action smoke.

All this makes the cockpit in the quarterdeck in the tropics seem another existence. That same quarterdeck of the Invincible is now swept by sleet and spray and piled high with cushions from the officers' wardroom, ready for ditching overboard to reduce the risk of fire.

From the admiral's bridge the flight deck presents an equally desolate scene. Sea Harriers, the pilots strapped into the cockpits, sit waiting for orders to scramble and



## FALKLANDS CRISIS/2

## Argentine losses are greater

By David Cross

In the month since the invasion of the Falklands, various battles and other incidents have already cost both Argentina and Britain many casualties. Exactly how many is impossible to calculate at this stage, largely because battle claims from Buenos Aires are so unreliable.

It is almost certainly the case, however, that more Argentines have died and suffered injuries than Britons. The following account of events gives some idea of losses on both sides to date.

April 2. The Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands cost Buenos Aires the life of at least one officer. Mr Rex Hunt, the Governor of the Falklands, claimed that at least five, and possibly 15 Argentines were killed and another 17 wounded in the battle. Both the British and Argentine Governments agreed that there were no British casualties.

April 3. Argentina said that three of its men died in its invasion of South Georgia but a young British officer claimed that between 10 and 15 Argentine commandos were killed and at least 20 more wounded by his men. There were no British losses.

April 23. A British crewman on board a Sea King helicopter was drowned during an exercise as the task force steamed into increasingly rough weather in the South Atlantic.

April 25. During the battle to retake South Georgia, only one casualty was reported by the British. This was an Argentine sailor on board the submarine Santa Fe, who suffered a severe leg injury. The Argentine authorities claimed that British troops suffered dozens of casualties in the operation.

April 26. One of the Argentine prisoners in South Georgia being held by the British died in what was described as a "serious incident".

May 1. The British bombing of Port Stanley airfield and the Goose Green airstrip on the Falklands cost an unknown number of Argentine lives. President Galtieri admitted only that many lives had been lost during the hostilities up to this date. The British claimed that two Argentine Mirages and one Argentine Canberra had been shot down.

One British seaman, Ian Britnell of Teignmouth, Devon, was wounded when he was struck in the chest by shrapnel on board one of the ships of the task force. The Argentine admitted that two of their Mirages had been lost.

May 2 and 3. An unknown number of Argentine lives were lost when the Argentine cruiser, General Belgrano, was hit by British torpedoes.

May 4. Twenty officers and men on board the British destroyer Sheffield were missing, presumed dead when it was hit by an Argentine Exocet anti-ship missile. The pilot of a British Sea Harrier died when his aircraft was shot down during new raids on Port Stanley airport. Argentine casualties in the fresh on the airfield are still unknown.

## Weapons firms certain to profit

By Clive Cookson

Whatever the Falklands outcome, Britain's weapons manufacturing business will benefit, judging from the London Stock Exchange, where share prices of companies with defence interests have on the whole outperformed the market over the past month.

The argument, in over simplified form, is that if Britain comes out on top the country will be in a more militaristic mood and the Government will increase defence spending at a faster rate than the 3 per cent a year to which it is already committed. And if the worst happens there will be a requirement to replace hundreds of millions of pounds worth of lost equipment, and probably political pressure to make up inadequacies in Britain's defences.

Five large companies dominate Britain's electronic weapons industry: British Aerospace, GEC (including Marconi), Ferranti, Plessey and Racal. The sector was concentrated further last month when British Aerospace bought Sperry Gyroscope, the navigation, mines and underwater warfare specialist, for £45m.

In 1981 BAe sold £751m worth of military aircraft and £346m worth of guided weapons out of a total turnover of £1,660m. Sales of civil aircraft were worth only £332m, and on the whole, the military side of the business is more profitable than making airlines.

BAe manufactures the Sea Harriers, on which the Falklands task force depends for air cover, and the guided weapons (including the ship-launched Sea Dart and Sea Wolf and the helicopter-launched Sea Skua) that are its most modern firepower.

Like the other weapons manufacturers, BAe will not comment officially on the likely effect of the Falklands conflict on its order book. "It wouldn't be proper to say anything at the moment," a spokesman said.

GEC-Marconi is the leading supplier of guidance systems for the BAe missile and of the radar equipment with which the task force tracks Argentine aircraft and ships. The main hardware manufactured by Marconi is the Tigerfish torpedo fitted to the task force submarines. One torpedo can cost nearly £500,000.

Warships are built for the Navy by the state-owned British Shipbuilders at yards which still bear the names of their former private owners such as Vickers, Vosper Thornycroft, and Yarlow. Last year the Government announced that there would be no more orders for Type 42 destroyers (the class to which HMS Sheffield belonged) but the Yarlow yard on Clydeside recently won a £120m contract for a Type 22 frigate.

British Shipbuilders had warned their workers that up to 25,000 jobs would be lost because of the naval cuts planned by the Government before the Falklands crisis. It is towns like Barrow, where warship building is a leading occupation, that may see a slim silver lining in the South Atlantic war clouds.

## Search for compromise

## Reagan budget clears its first hurdle

From Bailey Morris, Washington, May 6

President Reagan has cleared the first important hurdle in his second drive to achieve a budget compromise by mobilizing Senate Republicans behind a new 1983 federal spending package approved by the budget committee late last night.

The new Republican budget, which projects a reduced deficit of \$105,000m (€58,000m) for the fiscal year 1983, was hammered out at a White House meeting between Mr Reagan's senior advisers and Senate leaders including Mr Howard Baker, the majority leader, and Mr Peter Domenici, chairman of the budget committee.

It would increase taxes by \$95,000m over a three-year period, reduce social security benefits by \$40,000m over the same period and cut Mr Reagan's big defence buildup moderately with total, three-year reductions of \$22,000m. Mr Reagan is announcing today his strong support of the new budget plan, immediately took the political offensive, telling reporters at the White House that the next step was up to congressional Democrats.

With their cooperation, Mr Reagan said the new spending plan "can put our country firmly on the road to economic prosperity" mainly by reassuring sceptical financial markets that the massive federal deficits will be reduced in 1983 and the year beyond.

Under the new programme which could be sent to the full Senate as early as next week, the deficits are projected at a high of \$105,000m in 1983 and dropping to \$70,000m in 1984 and \$42,000m in 1985.

Even at this stage, however, it was apparent that Mr

Reagan's new spending package faces a rough time in Congress among Republicans up for reelection and the Democratic Party generally.

In fact, the new proposal appeared to preserve a classic party struggle over domestic spending priorities. Its broad outline is much closer to Mr Reagan's original January budget which was overwhelmingly rejected by both parties than the compromise proposals he put forward in the recent, failed budget negotiations with Mr Thomas O'Neill, Democratic leader of the House.

It called for fewer cuts in defence spending than those agreed to earlier by Mr Reagan and Mr O'Neill and much steeper cuts in social programmes for the poor and elderly than any yet considered by congressional Democrats.

These positions alone are likely to create a new unity among the Democrats who plan to caucus their members this week with the aim of proposing and voting on a Democratic budget alternative by the end of next week.

The Democratic alternative is likely to include fewer cuts in social programmes, bigger increases in taxes than those supported by the President and much larger cuts in defence spending. "I think you'll see a basic philosophic difference reflected in the two new budget alternatives," said a member of the Democratic-controlled House budget committee.

This would dampen considerably the President's proposals of forging a coalition of Republicans and conservative Democrats behind his new proposal.

## Bush assures Chinese over Taiwan dispute

May 6. — Mr George Bush, the American Vice-President, visiting China at a time when relations are strained over Taiwan, said tonight that areas of agreement and cooperation "far outweigh the few differences between us".

Mr Bush at his first formal function in China — a banquet given by Mr Li Peng, the Zhejiang province Governor added: "that is the way it is and the way it must be among friends."

Mr Li said in his toast: "The Chinese and American peoples are friendly towards each other and both hope that obstacles in our bilateral relations will be surmounted so that our relations can continue to develop, because it is in the interests not only of our two peoples but also

of peace and stability in the world."

Mr Bush thanked the governor for his "words of encouragement and support".

China has demanded that Washington sets a date for halting arms sales to Taiwan, a seat of the rival Nationalists, or face a retrogression in relations. It says the sales amount to a "two-China" policy.

In his speech, Mr Bush said President Reagan and his Administration "stand strongly" by the understanding that "there is but one China and that Taiwan is part of China".

Mr Bush is in Hangzhou for one day before going on to Peking. He has visited five other Asian and Pacific countries in 13 days.



Waiting for father: Mrs Danuta Walesa, the wife of the interned Solidarity leader, Lech Walesa, with two of her children, Magda (left) and Anna, in Gdansk.

## Poles pass liberal Bill

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, May 6

While Poland's attention was diverted by the soft thrust of tear gas canisters, the Polish Parliament this week quietly passed an astonishingly liberal Bill on higher education. Giving universities the right to elect their own rectors and control over much of the daily curriculum.

The Bill was part of a package of measures associated with national culture that was enacted by the Sejm (Parliament) on Tuesday.

According to one Sejm deputy, the way that the Bill was passed gives some clue as to the sensitivity of the legislation: "Towards the end of the session we started to vote on the culture accord and other things we had been discussing, including the higher education Bill. After the vote, my neighbour turned to me and asked: 'When are we going to decide about higher education?' We just have, I said. 'Good God' he said and left the chamber."

Until the text of the Bill is leaked in its entirety, it will be difficult to decide how many of the liberal components in the original draft — drawn up in the Solidarity era — have been retained. About 200 amendments had been tabled and were discussed for almost a year by two committees of parliamentarians.

Even so, the main pillars of the original Bill have been retained, guaranteeing a remarkable degree of autonomy to the nine state universities. As originally planned, rectors can be elected by the universities themselves and

students are given the right to form their own student associations.

Admittedly below university level, many colleges will have to accept a curriculum defined by the ministry but the optional elements which often make up some 30 per cent of degree courses at polytechnics and elsewhere — can be drawn up by the colleges themselves. The faculty senates — the decision-making bodies in universities and college departments — retains much of their power, though in terms of nominating the rector (vice-chancellor) this is fairly evenly balanced with the Ministry of Higher Education.

Most Western diplomats and observers had predicted that this Bill would never be enacted for it seems to challenge many of the fundamental principles of martial law.

Thus some weeks ago Professor Henryk Samsonowicz, elected by staff and students as rector of Warsaw University, was dismissed. He was regarded as a liberal Marxist and was expelled from the Communist Party after the imposition of martial law amongst other things for allowing the now banned student association, NZS, to print leaflets on university presses.

This was seen by worried academics as the first step towards a purge of university life by those in the party who wanted to drive a wedge between the intellectuals and workers.

On May Day, as Solidarity activists tumbled through the streets, they were chanting among the more predictable slogans: "Give us back our rector."

The new Bill may defuse this to some extent, and that clearly was one of the aims. It was never very realistic of the academic staff — as many admitted privately — to expect the Military Council to back down having ousted a rector.

But by the military conceding the principle of elected rectors, the academics may be prepared to agree to accept Professor Bobrowski as an interim solution until elections can be held.

But the Military Council can also make liberal concessions because of an important amendment to the new act. The so-called Advisory Council on Higher Education, a powerful force in drafting central directives on education, will now — as originally envisaged — be composed of 60 members of faculty senates (that is, elected representatives) but will contain 20 members nominated by the minister. This allows the ministry to counter situations through anti-liberal measures, if necessary.

In any case as long as martial law is in effect, the Army can easily ignore certain aspects of the higher education law. It will continue to ban NZS, for example. Military rule will override whatever has been enacted. But the new act shows that the Military Council is prepared, when martial law has been lifted, to allow at least some sections of society to live and let live.

## Nato links security and better living

From Ian Murray, Brussels, May 6

Money spent on improving European standard of living and providing help for developing nations had to go hand-in-hand with money spent on defence if there was to be real security in the world, the 14 European members of Nato agreed here today.

According to Signor Leoluca Orlando, the current chairman of the Nato Eurogroup, high living standards made for a strong country and a strong country was the one which could defend itself in a proper way.

It was equally important to help developing countries to pursue and achieve their objectives to give stability to the world and thus create the right climate for the money in consequence, the Eurogroup had decided to try to give more thought to political policies and less to the technical problems of defence. This, he said, did not mean that defence should be neglected, but that it should be seen as part of a broader strategy.

The Euro-group also recognized that in the interests of cohesion within the alliance there was a need to establish that Europe paid a fair share of the cost of defence compared with the money supplied by the United States.

The case stems from the shutdown nearly two years ago, on the same day of the Ottawa Journal and the Winnipeg Tribune. The Journal was owned by Thomson and the Tribune by Southam.

The closures left the Southam-owned Ottawa Citizen and the Thomson-owned Winnipeg Free Press the only English language daily newspapers in their cities.

At about the same time Southam bought Thomson's 50 per cent share in Pacific Press Ltd, which publishes Vancouver's only two dailies, the Sun and the Province, and Thomson's one third interest in the Gazette.

Both groups face three charges of conspiracy to lessen competition and four monopoly-making charges.



Heeding the call: Forty-four Protestant women taking the oath at Kecskenet during the first ordaining of women ministers in the history of the Reformed Church of Hungary.

## Quebec to opt out of the Bill of Rights

From John Best, Ottawa, May 6

The laws of Quebec would be exempted from many provisions of the Canadian Bill of Rights introduced yesterday in the National Assembly, the province's legislature. The legislation takes advantage of a clause in the Bill, part of Canada's new constitution, allowing the provinces wide latitude to opt out of provisions.

Alone of the 10 provinces, Quebec has refused to accept either the Bill of Rights or the constitution itself.

Once the legislation is passed, a number of fundamental freedoms would not be guaranteed in Quebec under the national Bill of Rights, although they would still be protected under Quebec's own rights charter. These include freedom of conscience and religion, freedom of association, and the right to life, liberty and security of the person.

Mr Marc-André Bedard, Quebec's Justice Minister, told reporters the Government was prepared to fight for Quebec's Bill 101. Under it, children must attend French-language schools unless one of their parents was educated in English in Quebec.

## Hersant bid for daily paper suffers setback

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, May 6

The attempt by M Robert Hersant, the newspaper magnate, and owner of the largest press group in France, to acquire control of Le Dauphiné Libéré, the Grenoble newspaper with a circulation of more than 400,000, has met an unexpected setback.

The previous owner, M Louis Richerot, who was induced in April of last year by financial difficulties to surrender his shares in the newspaper to a pool of banks as surety for a short-term loan, announced today that he had been able to buy them back.

The announcement last week of the takeover of Le Dauphiné Libéré by M Hersant provoked protests from the journalists' unions, from M Richerot and from members of Parliament — both of the Socialist majority and of the Opposition who alleged that it constituted a violation of the law on the press of 1944.

This law, designed to protect the pluralism of the press, prohibits any one person from owning more than one daily newspaper. Legal proceedings initiated some years ago against M

## Newspaper chains to stand trial

From Our Correspondent, Ottawa, May 6

Canada's two largest newspaper chains, Thomson Newspapers and Southam Inc, are to stand trial on monopoly charges.

They were committed to trial yesterday in Toronto by Mr J. L. Addison, an Ontario provincial judge, on the basis of evidence presented at a preliminary hearing last autumn.

The case stems from the shutdown nearly two years ago, on the same day of the Ottawa Journal and the Winnipeg Tribune. The Journal was owned by Thomson and the Tribune by Southam.

The closures left the Southam-owned Ottawa Citizen and the Thomson-owned Winnipeg Free Press the only English language daily newspapers in their cities.

At about the same time Southam bought Thomson's 50 per cent share in Pacific Press Ltd, which publishes Vancouver's only two dailies, the Sun and the Province, and Thomson's one third interest in the Gazette.

## Balcony seat at Corniche carnage

From Robert Fisk, Beirut, May 6

It was a fine day. The summer sun shone brightly on the Mediterranean whose gentle waves brushed the shoreline of the Beirut Corniche. The palm trees swayed slightly in the breeze.

And on the roadway beside the fruit stall, there lay a man's body, arms and legs spread-eagled, as if he had died in a television play. Only when two gunmen picked him up by his arms and legs and dumped him in the back of a truck, like a sack of potatoes, was it clear that the figure really was lifeless.

When one watches this sort of thing from one's own balcony, the scene is almost cathartic. In Beirut, the gathering of corpses almost inevitably means that battle has temporarily ended, and indeed a clutch of schoolgirls ran into the street a few minutes later and screeched their enthusiasm for a lorry-load of frightened Syrian soldiers, which was somewhat strange, since the Syrians had not even been involved in the conflict.

Beirut's bloodshed — like modern British naval history — tends to be generated by what at first appears an insignificant dispute. This morning, a truck mounted with a heavy machine gun was parked outside a half-built apartment block on the Corniche in the west of the city by the Maronite town militia. The armed followers of Mr Walid Jumblatt's Progressive Socialist Party happened, however, to be occupying this skeletal building and objected to the rather unorthodox parking violation.

The immediate result was a half-hour shoot-out between the two sides in which rocket-propelled grenades swished through the cypress trees near the American University and mortar shells thundered into the pre-stressed concrete block.

But the Lebanese, as all who live here admit, have phlegm. As the explosions rumbled across the university campus, two tennis players continued to smash their ball on the court, a basketball player continued to shoot, and biology undergraduates doggedly turned up for a seminar scarcely 200 yards from the battle.

A group of fruit vendors watched their abandoned orange stalls from the shade of a bougainvillea tree as perspiring young men carry rocket-launchers of unimaginable complexity took positions in doorways and gutters.

By the time the fighting came to an end, the Maronite machine-gunner had been blown clean off his truck on to the road, he lay there for 10 minutes afterwards — and the Jumblattists claimed that between two and 10 gunmen had died.

For a few more minutes, ambulances drove frantically up and down the Corniche. A company of Syrian soldiers trundled by, their rifles and rifles pointing at the unfinished apartment block. Then Beirut's rowdy motorists returned to the Corniche and the street vendors counted their change.

The bloody little battle was all part of the fracturing of Lebanon's left-wing National Movement, a cleavage in Lebanon's socialist armies every bit as vicious as that which once tore apart the Christian militias in east Beirut. This summer's presidential elections are not far away and the promise of power usually brings out the guns in Beirut.

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## Rome youths hijack bus

Rome, May 6. — Four armed youths hijacked an airport bus taking passengers from a London flight to the centre of Rome and robbed them of five million lire (about £2,000), pulled pistols on the driver as he entered the Magliana suburb last night and ordered him to follow a waiting car. Passengers were ordered to hand over cash and valuables to the youths, who sped off in the car.

## Waldheim run down by tram

Vienna. — Dr Kurt Waldheim, the former United Nations Secretary-General, was knocked down by a tram and taken to hospital with concussion.

Austrian radio quoted him as saying he would have to stay in hospital for two or three days.

## Border guard charged

Brunswick. — West German authorities charged an East German border guard with suspected murder yesterday, the day after he shot another border guard with a sub-machine gun and fled to the West.

Klaus Decker, aged 19, confessed to firing four shots with a sub-machine gun at his colleague before escaping over the border, according to a government press statement. The East German news agency ADN reported that the other border guard, Erhard Knoke, was "treacherously murdered" while "protecting the state border".

But the Government's statement said that Herr Decker would have "all the rights of West German citizenship".



Balcony seat at Corniche carnage

حزبنا الوطن

## Terrorist killing stops work at Bilbao plant

From Harry Debelius Madrid, May 6

Basque terrorists determined to keep a nuclear power plant near Bilbao from operating accomplished their purpose, at least temporarily, today when employees of the company building the plant said they would not go back to work at the site, after the assassination of the chief engineer.

He was the sixth person to die in attacks involving the nearly completed installation. One technician who did not wish to be named, said "THE only way you could get me to go back to Lemóniz (the location of the plant) would be to dress me in army khaki and order me to go". The technician said he and other employees were under the obviously mistaken impression that the extremist organization E.T.A. (Basque home land and liberty) had secretly agreed to end its campaign against the nuclear power station, coinciding with the implementation of a plan for the home-ruled Government to take over operational responsibility from the privately-owned Electric Power Company which owns it.

In an interview broadcast nationwide by the state-run Nacional Radio, the Council for Industry and Energy of the Basque Regional Government admitted that the latest killing — the second of a chief engineer in less than 16 months — would mean a delay in putting the Lemóniz plant into operation, although he said this did not mean any change in referring to employees

frightened by ETA attacks and threats, Señor Javier "if can only tell them that we have to find a way to keep on, because it is the only positive reply, although I understand that for some people in particular this may not be possible."

About 7,000 mourners stood outside the packed Bilbao church where funeral services were held for the engineer Señor Angel Pascual Mugica, who was shot yesterday.

The relatively low turnout, considering official appeals for citizens to show their contempt for terrorism by attending the funeral, was probably caused by the rainy, chilly weather as well as widespread misgivings about the nuclear energy programme.

Among those attending the requiem mass today were Señor Ignacio Bayón, the Spanish Minister for Industry and Energy, and Señor Carlos Garañano, the President of the Autonomous Government of the Basque Provinces.

The military wing of E.T.A., the leftist, secessionist organization, acknowledged in a communiqué delivered to a Basque newspaper that it was responsible for the assassination of the chief engineer. The ETA murdered Señor Pascual Mugica's predecessor at Lemóniz on January 29, 1981. Because of that killing and threats to other employees, almost all work was suspended on the project for more than a year. Work resumed only 10 days ago.

## New leader for Italian Christian Democrats

From Our Own Correspondent

A new national secretary of the Italian Christian Democrat Party was elected today. He is Signor Ciriaco de Mita, aged 54, who hastened in his first interview after his election, to establish a balance in the crucial question of his relations with the Socialists.

He had been regarded as being the less tolerant of the two candidates for the post, towards the Socialist demands for a greater say in the conduct of the coalition Government's policies.

He said he did not see his election as a challenge to the Socialists but added: "Certainly the Socialists will have to get used to dealing with the Christian Democrats in a rather different way. It was they who asked for equal dignity and that rule must cut both ways." The Socialists make no secret of their ambition to provide the next Prime Minister.

Signor de Mita was elected with about 55 per cent of the votes. His rival, Signor Arnaldo Forlani, the former Prime Minister, led what is regarded as a more conservative alliance of interests within the party more intent on good relations with the Socialists and less interested than Signor de Mita is supposed to be in keeping in friendly contact with the Communists.

The new Secretary's attitude will soon be put to the test. Leaders of the five coalition parties, of which the Christian Democrats are by far the biggest, are due to meet soon to discuss the Government's fate after a series of clashes between Christian Democrats and Socialists.

The last almost brought the Government down. A Christian Democrat Minister, Signor Beniamino Andreatta, said at a preparatory meeting before the congress that more votes for the Socialists would bring the danger of national socialism. The anger of the Socialists at this apparent reference to Nazi tendencies was only curbed by President Pertini's personal intervention when he publicly described the remark as "disgusting".

Signor de Mita was born at Nusco in the Irpinia area near Avellino, the son of a tailor. He was also helped in his schooling by a local priest and after a year at Naples University he went with a scholarship to the Catholic university in Milan where he took a degree in jurisprudence.

In common with other party secretaries in Italy, Signor di Mita will play no direct role in government but will control key appointments and policy decisions from party headquarters (Reuter reports).



Signor Ciriaco de Mita (right) shakes hands with the defeated rival, Signor Arnaldo Forlani

## Gambian President wins election

From Godfrey Morrison, Banjul, May 6

Sir Dawda Jawara and his ruling People's Progressive Party (PPP) swept to comfortable victories in the Gambian presidential and parliamentary elections. Final results were announced today.

This is interpreted both as a vote of confidence in Sir Dawda, who has ruled the country since independence from Britain in 1965, and as an endorsement of his Government's decision to enter into a confederation with neighbouring Senegal last February.

The formation of the confederation came after an armed left-wing revolt which briefly overthrew Sir Dawda's Government last July, but which was later crushed by Senegalese troops.

In the presidential poll, Sir Dawda was opposed by Mr Sheriff Dikka, the leader of the opposition National Convention Party (NCP) who gained 52,136 votes to Sir Dawda's 137,020.

Mr Dikka conducted his campaign from a prison cell where he is awaiting trial on treason and related charges connected with the NCP's alleged involvement in last July's armed revolt in which up to 600 people are believed to have died.

The NCP has vigorously denied involvement in the revolt.

NCP supporters also queried the fairness of the elections.

PPP supporters point to The Gambia's long tradition

of free and fair elections and say that only in a very liberal democracy would a man detained on treason charges be permitted to stand for president.

Mr Dikka also lost his parliamentary seat which he had held since before independence. The NCP which had five members in the last Parliament, will have only three in the new one.

But the PPP did not have things all its own way. Five of the independent candidates, former PPP supporters who had failed to win party nomination, defeated official candidates and the PPP will have 27 directly elected members in the new Parliament compared to 29.

But Sir Dawda's party will still have a comfortable majority in the new House of Representatives. As president he has the right to nominate eight members and later this week, five chiefs will nominate five traditional rulers to represent them in the new House of 48 members.

Political sources foresee that after his victory, Sir Dawda will seek to consolidate his position through a government reshuffle in which Vice-President Assan Musa Camara, could be demoted.

Whatever the future political line-up here the main issue of contention and interest will remain progress towards making the Senegambian Confederation a reality. The elections have been closely watched by Senegalese representatives.

## Self-Portrait of a terrorist

### How Red Brigades keep total control

From Peter Nichols, Rome, May 6

The first detailed self-portrait of a terrorist was interrupted today when the Rome Court of Assizes suspended hearings to allow the transfer from tape of 20 hours of testimony given by Antonio Savasta about his life as a killer in the Red Brigades.

The trial principally concerns the kidnapping and murder in the spring of 1978 of Signor Aldo Moro, the leading figure in the governing Christian Democrat Party. But the hearings are also concerned with a whole series of murders and acts of violence by the Rome section of this left-wing terrorist organization. Others among more than 60 accused were far more prominent than Antonio Savasta: Mario Moretti, for instance, remains the most authoritative figure among the former leaders, even in captivity.

Savasta claims a minor role in the Moro affair. He says that he was in favour of killing Signor Moro rather than liberating him however and is believed to have committed 17 murders. The great difference between him and the former leaders of the section is that he has agreed to speak.

He offered to do so immediately he was captured in Padua last January when holding prisoner the American General James D. Dozier. He has kept his word in five long interrogations conducted mainly by Signor Severino Santapichi, the presiding judge. When hearings resume on Monday he will be at the disposal of defending counsel and of the public prosecutor.

Aged 27, bespectacled with a rather unassuming moustache, he allowed his cold self-control to give way only

once in face of constant descriptions of him as heartless and inhuman. On Tuesday he told the judge: "There is nothing cynical in my answers. You judge me because I have killed, for deaths of which I felt and still feel the weight. But if I were to cry now, as I have cried at length about my own affairs, you would not understand me." He went on to explain that the organization had its own logic and personal problems had no place.

Moretti and others accused, who refuse cooperation with the court, leave their cages in protest and return to their cells when Savasta speaks. One of them shouted at him that he had reneged not only on the Red Brigade but also on the 27 years of his own life. Savasta was born in Centocelle, studied classics and worked intermittently as a messenger-boy.

He said of his decision to become a terrorist: "My challenge began from the school benches of Centocelle. We felt the need to struggle to conquer new space and not be crushed by rules." He is a classic example of a product of the abandoned suburbs of Rome, a favourite theme of the late poet Pasolini, who was murdered by another product of the same background.

In the hearings yesterday, Savasta sought to convince the court that killers have their problems too. "To kill a person with two different weapons one after the other, is a difficult business. It has happened to me. After the first shots, the victim can have spasms, and you can think he is still alive."

Savasta told the court that the Red Brigades received two shipments of arms from the Palestine Liberation Organization. They had never accepted money from abroad, certainly not from Libya. No foreigners were involved in the Moro kidnappings. He was convinced, he said yesterday, that there could be no manipulation of the Red Brigades from outside.

"I have never had even a suspicion that someone was able to manoeuvre the organization," he said. "Above all because the clandestine life allows, at least at a certain level, an almost total control over the movements of the comrades, and then, the organization's policy is constantly under control from below, through debates."



Antonio Savasta: The talking Guerrilla.

## Two parties demand rerun in Jakarta

From David Watts, Jakarta, May 6

Indonesian opposition parties are demanding a rerun of parts of Tuesday's election in Jakarta after widespread allegations of malpractice.

Both the opposition Indonesian Democratic Party and the Muslim Development Party (PPP) allege that there was extensive double voting in the poll and both parties are preparing official complaints about the conduct of the election.

The government Electoral Commission denies that there was any manipulation in the polls and says that double

voting would be impossible. The commission says that it is prepared to receive complaints providing they are supported by evidence, but meanwhile the counting of the ballots will continue.

The ruling Golkar Party has so far collected 56 per cent of the votes cast and is clearly the national winner — but with fewer than 200,000 votes separating Golkar and PPP in Jakarta, the actual vote total might change through the seat allocations, expected to be five each, will not be affected.

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# Success claimed by Iran in fresh offensive

Tehran, May 6. — Iran launched an offensive in Northern Khuzestan last night, advancing several miles towards the Iraqi border and capturing hundreds of Iraqi soldiers, Tehran radio said today.

The radio said Iranian armed forces attacked Iraqi positions in the Fakh region, smashing their forward defences within hours. It said the drive was continuing.

Iran said its forces had cut Iraqi supply routes in the region and killed hundreds of Iraqi troops. Iranian aircraft strafed Iraqi concentrations and knocked out 18 tanks in the Fakh region.

Further south, an Iraqi counter-offensive west of a road linking the cities of Ahwaz and Khorramshahr had been smashed by Iranian ground forces last night, a military communiqué said.

It claimed that after pushing the Iraqis back to their previous positions, Iranian troops launched new attacks and were continuing their advance in the area. They captured 700 Iraqis and destroyed 18 tanks. Iraqi troops had been driven into the battle to attack the road, a strategic highway which Iraqis crossed at the start of an offensive last Friday. — Reuters.

Beirut. — An Iraqi communiqué issued early today said one Iranian jet was shot down in a dogfight over Khuzestan province (AP reports).

The statement came about 12 hours after the Iraqis issued a communiqué saying their helicopters for the first time in the 19-month war had raided the Iraqi border town of Fuka.

Both sides acknowledged that the Iraqis had crossed the Karun river and were battling to take the key highway linking Ahwaz with Khorramshahr. The dispatches indicated each side launched attacks and counterattacks, and the fighting appeared to be shifting back and forth on the west side of Karun river.

On the Awwaz-Khorramshahr Road. — The anti-aircraft gun fires repeatedly, each time with a deferring roar, and give way to a chorus of "Allah O Akbar" as 20 or 30 young Iranian troops as they watch Iraqi assault helicopter disappear over the horizon (AFP reports).

The road is now the front line of the southern war front between Iran and Iraq. More than 15 miles behind it is the Karun river, forded in the first hours of an offensive that began a week ago.

The "fighters of Islam" along the front are almost all very young, or very old. Many are between 14 and 16 years old, while a handful are older than 50.

"Sixty to 70 per cent of those who are fighting in the sector are not regular soldiers," said a revolutionary guard. "They are Basij (mobilization) of the disinherited, ordinary people. Real soldiers are not very frequently found here."

The Basij often are seen wearing armbands over their sand-coloured fatigues, or headbands bearing the words "Allah u Akbar" — God is great.

Their defence of danger is astonishing. After the anti-aircraft gun falls silent, a shell lands a few yards away, the youths stand ground, none of them ducks, and all chortle to see the corresponding devastation against a wall of sandbags as the shell thuds into the sand.

## 37 MPs ousted after poll in Sierra Leone

Freetown, May 6. — With all the results from last Saturday's general election in Sierra Leone now declared, nearly 40 MPs have lost their seats in the one-party legislature.

Two Cabinet ministers were defeated. Thirteen other ministers were elected unopposed, with six other candidates. Thirty-seven new MPs were elected, with 17 members of the old parliament re-elected.

Results in 13 constituencies were annulled due to "serious irregularities" and President Siaka Stevens told a press conference on Tuesday that new elections would be held there within a month.

Apart from ordinary members, the Sierra Leone Parliament also includes 12 paramount chiefs. — AFP.

## Amoco Cadiz damages hearings open

From Our Own Correspondent New York, May 6

Pre-trial hearings have begun in Chicago in the case of the Amoco Cadiz tanker which crashed on the coast of Brittany in March 1978, causing massive oil pollution.

The French government, municipalities and some private interests are suing the tanker's owners, Standard Oil of Indiana (Amoco), alleging \$110m of damage.

They claim that Amoco was negligent in failing to maintain the ship in a seaworthy condition. Documents lodged with the court on Tuesday show that the oil company counters that the French failed to assist the tanker, and caused much of the pollution themselves by inefficient cleaning operations.

## Some life left in Namibia approach

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg, May 6

Mr Ewen Ferguson, the new British Ambassador to South Africa, admitted today that the search for a negotiated settlement to the conflict in Namibia had "hit a trough in what, over many years, has been an up-and-down course".

Speaking at a press conference in Cape Town after presenting his letters of credence to the South African President, the ambassador insisted, however, that the current Western negotiation initiative, which got under way last autumn, still had life in it.

Earlier this week, Swapo, the guerrilla organization fighting for Namibia's independence, and "front-line" black African states rejected the Western approach as "sterile", and called instead for the issue to be referred to a new international conference.

The Western "contact group" had been pursuing an itinerant diplomacy aimed at isolating the various issues involved and securing a settlement by stages, but this process has bogged down at the first stage because of African rejection of the method proposed for electing a constituent assembly in Namibia.

Mr Ferguson said he could not comment further on the future of the Namibia negotiations until "several important meetings" had been concluded, including a meeting of the "contact group" in Paris and talks between senior American and South African officials in Swakopmund next week.

The mood in diplomatic circles is generally gloomy. The international conference approach to the Namibia problem was tried in January of last year in Geneva and it failed; on the other hand there does not seem much point in pressing on with the present phased negotiation if it no longer enjoys the confidence of one of the main parties involved.

The "contact group" from America, Britain, Canada, France and West Germany has been searching for a Namibia settlement since 1977. It embarked on its current task, however, only last year after the failure of the Geneva conference.

Asked about British policy towards South Africa, Mr Ferguson said that his government's aim was not only to protect British interests here but also to "encourage a peaceful evolution in South Africa".

"We don't think we have all the answers, and we won't prescribe our own form of society. I believe that humility is perhaps the right approach and to say that we will support any system that has the support of South Africa's people as a whole".



Tip of the iceberg

## Mandela's wife kept from award

Philadelphia, May 6. — The South African Government has refused to lift a ban on Mrs Winnie Mandela, the wife of Mr Nelson Mandela, the imprisoned leader of the banned African National Congress, for her role in the United States to receive an honorary degree, a Havard college official said (Reuters reports).

Havard, a Quaker college, has awarded Mrs Mandela an honorary doctor of laws degree for her fight against apartheid. The degree was accepted on her behalf on May 17 by Mrs Adelaide Tambo, the wife of Mr Oliver Tambo, another African National Congress leader.

Mrs Mandela is restricted to a village.

Ms. Maseru: Fifteen members of the Pan-African Congress, which seeks the overthrow of white rule in South Africa, were released by Lesotho authorities after being held for several days, a police spokesman said (AP reports).

They had been detained after reports of fighting between rival groups within the movement.

East London: Mr Thomas Ogweta, the president of the South African Allied Workers' Union, was arrested today for the seventh time, union officials said.

Mr Ogweta, aged about 30, was previously arrested on December 8 and released a few weeks later.

## Proof claimed of TV link with aggression

From Michael Hamlyn, New York, May 6

An authoritative official review of research on television violence has come to the conclusion that the evidence is "overwhelming" that it leads to aggressive behaviour in young people.

A report of the study carried out for the United States Government said: "Television violence is strongly correlated with aggressive behaviour as any other behavioural variable that has been measured".

The question now was no longer whether the link existed, but what explains it.

The study, a two-year review of work done since America's Surgeon-General first published his report on television violence in 1972, was carried out by the National Institute of Mental Health and has caused a great flutter among the television companies.

The companies were quick to declare that the review was seriously flawed. "Japan has some of the most violent television in the world and they have a very low level of violence in their society," said one Columbia Broadcasting System executive.

Another called the report "an almost uncritical selection and acceptance of certain studies" and said that the literature used to review the link between television and violence was "biased and incomplete".

Research projects quoted in the report included one of London teenage boys which showed they were more likely to engage in serious violence after watching violent scenes on television. Another study found "unwanted aggressive behaviour in free play among children of pre-school age who had just watched violent programmes".

One study found an increase in unruliness among black children after viewing *Roots*, the televised version of the book celebrating the resistance of slaves in America.

"The evidence accumulated in the 1970s seems overwhelming that television violence is positively related in children," the report says.

"The consensus among most of the research community is that violence on television does lead to aggressive behaviour by children and teenagers who watch the programmes. This conclusion is based on laboratory experiments and field studies."

The National Institute adds: "Not all children become aggressive, of course," and points to a study carried out by the National Broadcasting Company which found no evidence of a long-term link between viewing violence on television and aggressive behaviour.

## Fighters attacked minister

From Our Correspondent Ankara, May 6

Two fighters of unidentified nationality attacked the aircraft carrying Mr Muhammad Benyahia, the Algerian Foreign Minister, in Tehran on Monday, the Turkish Foreign Ministry has confirmed.

The aircraft crashed on Monday afternoon just inside Iran after leaving Turkish air space, killing 14 people on board, Iran blamed Iraq for the fatal shooting.

The Foreign Ministry said a careful examination of tape recordings of the conversation between the pilot and the control tower of the Esenboga airport here had clearly established that the pilot had informed the tower at 13.28 GMT that the aircraft was leaving Turkish air space. After entering Iranian airspace at 13.30 GMT, he had called the tower back to announce that his aircraft was being chased by two fighters and that he would try to turn back.

At the time of the second call, the aircraft was 16 to 30 miles inside Iranian air space, the statement said.

The Iranian national news agency IRNA said the aircraft was hit by Soviet-made Iraqi missiles (Reuters reports).

Beirut: The bodies of Mr Benyahia and 13 other victims of the crash were flown home from Tehran today (AP reports).

## Top judges offer to resign

Manila. — Twelve Filipino Supreme Court judges, led by Chief Justice Enrique Fernando, have submitted their resignations after a Bar examination scandal.

An announcement said President Marcos had received the resignations, but did not say if he had accepted them. The court has 14 members.

No reasons for the resignations were given, but they came after allegations that several judges were involved in changing the grade of the son of one of them in the 1981 Bar examinations, enabling him to pass.

## Maize shortage

Lusaka. — Zambia is in import 400,000 tonnes of maize at a cost of about £4m this year to offset a shortfall caused by drought, Mr Nalundia Munda, the Zambian Prime Minister, was quoted as saying. Half of the maize would come from Zimbabwe.

## Chad threat

Ndjamena. — President Goukouni Oueddei restated his intention to call on an "outside force" to end the rebellion in Chad if the organization of the African Unity decided to withdraw its peace-keeping force.

## Joint protest

Dar es Salaam. — Tanzania and Mozambique have condemned South Africa for financing anti-government guerrillas in neighbouring countries and called for the dismantling of the United States base on the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia.

## Unita kills nun

Lisbon. — Unita, the anti-government force in Angola, has admitted killing the Mother Superior of a Portuguese Roman Catholic mission in an armed attack on the Vila Nova de Sales mission on April 27.

## Consuls' fears

Boston. — Foreign consuls in Boston have demanded that the authorities in Massachusetts should give them more protection after the assassination of Mr Orhan Gassid, the Turkish honorary Consul General on Tuesday night.

## Kidnap victim

Brescia. — Rosa Olmi, a member of a wealthy family of road builders, has been kidnapped from her flat in Travagliato, Northern Italy.

## Exciting find

Peking. — Archaeologists have discovered a superb, 1,400-year-old mural depicting the life of an aristocrat, in the province of Shunxi.

## Law Report May 7 1982 House of Lords

# Nervous shock damages for those not at scene of accident

McLoughlin v O'Brien and Others. Before Lord Wilberforce, Lord Edmund-Davies, Lord Russell of Killowen, Lord Scarman and Lord Bridge of Harwich. [Speeches delivered May 6]

Illness caused by shock to a mother who was told at home that her family had been seriously injured in a car accident two miles away and knew where the accident occurred, was held by the House of Lords to be reasonably foreseeable consequence of the admitted negligence of the drivers of two lorries involved in the accident.

Therefore her mother was entitled to bring an action for damages against the negligent defendants, and no question of public policy prevented the floodgates to similar claims should deter the courts from applying established principles of liability in such cases.

The Lords allowed an appeal by Mrs Rosina McLoughlin, of Sawston, Cambridge, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Stephenson, Lord Justice Cumming-Bruce and Lord Justice Griffiths) (The Times, January 13, 1981; [1981] QB 599) which had dismissed her appeal from Mr Justice Boreham, and held that although it was reasonably foreseeable that injury by shock would be caused to a wife and mother in the position of the plaintiff, the duty of care owed by the driver of a vehicle was limited to persons who were present at or near the scene of an accident and directly affected by his negligence; that considerations of public policy limited the duty of care in that way and did not require it to be extended; and that since the plaintiff was two miles away from the accident and did not learn of or see its consequences until two hours later, she was not entitled to recover damages for nervous shock.

At the time, the plaintiff was at her home about two miles away. An hour or so later the accident was reported to her by a neighbour, Mr Pilgrim, who told her that her husband George was seriously injured in a car accident two miles away and knew where the accident occurred. She then drove her to Addenbrooke's hospital, Cambridge.

Michael, a fourth child not in the accident, told her that Gillian was dead. She saw through a corridor window Kathleen crying, with her face cut and begrimed with dirt and oil.

She could hear George shouting and screaming. She was taken to her husband who was sitting with his head in his hands, his shirt hanging off him and he was covered in mud and oil. He saw his wife and started sobbing.

She was then taken to see George; the whole of his left face and neck were covered. He appeared to recognize her and then lapsed into unconsciousness.

Immediately she was taken to Kathleen who has been cleaned up but was too upset to speak and simply clung to her mother.

There could be no doubt that those circumstances witnessed by the plaintiff, were distressing in the extreme and capable of producing an effect going beyond that of grief and sorrow.

The plaintiff later brought proceedings against the four defendants for what was pleaded as nervous shock. She claimed that she was shocked by the accident and the circumstances, and a change of personality. The trial judge asked to assume that her condition had been caused or contributed to by shock as distinct from grief or sorrow; and that the plaintiff was a person of reasonable fortitude.

He held, however, in a most careful judgment reviewing the authorities, that the defendants owed no duty of care to her because the possibility of her suffering injury by nervous shock, in the circumstances, was not reasonably foreseeable.

His judgment was upheld on appeal but not on the same ground. Lord Justice Stephenson took the view that the possibility of injury by nervous shock was reasonably foreseeable and that the defendants owed her a duty of care. However, he held that considerations of policy prevented her from recovering damages for nervous shock. Lord Justice Griffiths held that injury by nervous shock to the plaintiff was "readily foreseeable" but that the defendants owed her no duty of care; the duty was limited to those on the road nearby. Lord Justice Cumming-Bruce agreed with both judgments.

The critical question on the appeal was whether a person in the position of the plaintiff, one who was not present at the scene of grievous injuries to her family but who came upon them

at an interval of time and space, could recover damages for nervous shock. The House of Lords was divided 3 to 2 on this point. The majority, consisting of Lord Wilberforce, Lord Edmund-Davies and Lord Russell of Killowen, held that such a claim should not succeed. But Lord Scarman, Lord Bridge of Harwich and Lord Griffiths held that it should.

The position reached on the authorities as they now stood was:

1. While damages could not, at common law, be awarded for grief and sorrow, claims for damages for nervous shock caused by negligence could be made without the need of showing direct impact or fear of immediate personal injuries for oneself.

2. A plaintiff might recover damages for nervous shock brought about by injury to him or herself but to a near relative, or by the fear of such injury.

3. Subject to paragraph 4, there was no English case in which a plaintiff had been able to recover nervous shock damages where the injury to the near relative was caused by the negligence of the plaintiff. In *Hambrook v Stokes Bros* (1925) 1 KB 141 an express distinction was made between nervous shock caused by the mother saw with her own eyes and what she might have seen by bystanders, liability on the former being limited to the injured person, and ultimately on the insured; road users or employers.

4. An extension of the latter case had been made where the plaintiff did not see or hear the accident but was shocked by its immediate aftermath. In *Boardman v Sanderson* (1964) 1 WLR 1317 the father was within earshot of the accident to his child and likely to come on account of the accident and suffered damage from what he then saw. In *Marshall v Lend Lease Enterprises* (1972) VR 789 the mother was in her home 100 yards away, and on communication by a third party, ran to the scene of the accident and there suffered shock. Their Lordships had to decide whether to validate those extensions.

5. A remedy on account of nervous shock was given to a man who came on a serious accident involving many people as a rescuer. *Chadwick v British Railways Board* (1967) 1 WLR 912. Shock was caused neither by fear for himself nor on account of a near relative. The principle of rescuer cases should be accepted, but the House had to consider whether, and how far, it could be applied to cases like the present.

Throughout those developments, the courts had proceeded in the traditional manner of the common law from case to case, and only in the last few years had it been necessary to draw an arbitrary line at the point of direct sight and sound, the extension under paragraph 4 above required acceptance in the interests of justice.

On the logical progression in the decided cases, it was hard to see why the present plaintiff

should not succeed. But his Lordship had been deeply impressed by the arguments of the two dissenting judges, and below that at the margin the boundaries of a man's responsibility for acts of negligence had to be drawn. The degree of responsibility was to be determined by the facts of the case. On the approach of Lord Atkin stating the neighbour principle in *Donoghue v Stevenson* (1932) AC 1, Lord Scarman said that the law of negligence should be limited by the law's judgment as to persons who ought, according to its standards of value or justice, to have been in the plaintiff's contemplation.

The policy arguments against a wider extension came under four heads.

First, it might be said that such extension might lead to a proliferation of claims and possibly fraudulent claims, to the establishment of an industry of lawyers and psychiatrists who would formulate a claim for nervous shock damages for all, or many, road and industrial accidents.

Second, it might be claimed that an extension of liability would be unfair to defendants, as it would place on them a burden of proof to disprove the claim. It would be placed on insurers, and ultimately on the insured: road users or employers.

Third, to extend liability beyond the most direct and plain cases would greatly increase evidentiary difficulties and lengthen litigation.

Fourth, as the Court of Appeal agreed, an extension of the scope of liability might only be made by the legislature.

Just because shock in its nature was capable of affecting so wide a range of people, there remained, in his Lordship's opinion, a real need for the law to place some limitation on the extent of admissible claims.

As regarded the class of persons, the possible range was between the closest of families (a parent and child, or husband and wife) — and the ordinary bystander.

Existing law recognized the claims of the first; it denied those of the second. The basic question was whether the law should be extended to persons who were not in the closest of families, but who were in the closest of relationships to the plaintiff.

carefully scrutinized. The closer the tie the greater the claim for compensation. The House was divided 3 to 2 on this point. The majority, consisting of Lord Wilberforce, Lord Edmund-Davies and Lord Russell of Killowen, held that such a claim should not succeed. But Lord Scarman, Lord Bridge of Harwich and Lord Griffiths held that it should.

It was obvious that it must be close in both time and space. It was, after all, the fact and consequence of the accident, and the claimant must be proved to have caused the nervous shock.

Experience had shown that to insist on direct and immediate contact was to restrict the law to impractical and unjust and that under what might be called the "aftermath" doctrine, one who, from close proximity, came upon the scene, should not be excluded. The result in *Benson v Loe* was correct and indeed inescapable. But a strict test of proximity by sight or hearing should be applied by the courts.

As to communication there was no case in which the law had been extended to persons who were not in the closest of relationships to the plaintiff. The shock must come through sight or hearing of the event or of its immediate aftermath.

Whether some equivalent of sight or hearing, for example, through simultaneous television, could be sufficient might have to be considered.

His Lordship's indications, imperfectly sketched, and certainly not intended to be applied to individual situations in their entirety, represented either the existing law or the existing law as it might be extended by the common law process might legitimately make.

They did not introduce a new principle. They did not extend the law beyond the lines already drawn. The plaintiff's case fell within the boundaries of the law so drawn. He would allow her appeal.

LORD EDMUND DAVIES, concurring in the result, said that the sole basis on which the claim was that the defendant's negligence had caused the plaintiff's shock. The claim was that of negligence, not of public policy. The claim was that of negligence, not of public policy. The claim was that of negligence, not of public policy.

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It would seem that the consensus of informed judicial opinion was probably the best yardstick available to determine whether, in any given circumstance, the claimant's injury or damage was reasonably foreseeable. The claimant's injury or damage was reasonably foreseeable. The claimant's injury or damage was reasonably foreseeable.

His Lordship developed consideration of the relevant facts and circumstances, approaching the question whether the law should, as a matter of policy, define the criterion of liability in negligence as being whether the claimant's injury or damage was reasonably foreseeable. The claimant's injury or damage was reasonably foreseeable. The claimant's injury or damage was reasonably foreseeable.

His Lordship saw no ground for suggesting that to make the defendant liable for reasonably foreseeable psychiatric illness caused by his negligence would be to impose a burden of proportion to his moral responsibility. The successful claims in this field and the quantum of damages they would attract were likely to be moderate.

To attempt to draw a line at the furthest point which any of the decided cases happened to have reached, and to say that it was the limit of the law, would be to extend the limits of liability for further, would be an unwarranted abdication of the court's function of developing and adapting principles of law to changing conditions, in a particular corner of the common law which exemplified the important and indeed necessary part which that function had to play.

This was an area of the law of negligence where the House should resist the temptation to try yet once more to freeze the law in a rigid posture which would deny justice to some who, in the application of the classic principles of negligence derived from *Donoghue v Stevenson*, ought to succeed.

The defendant's duty must depend on reasonable foreseeability and must be adjudicated only on a case by case basis. If asked where the line was to be drawn, Lord Scarman would say: "Where the particular case the good sense of the judges, enlightened by progressive awareness of mental illness, decided."

Solicitors: Vinters, Cambridge; Hextall, Earsfield & Co, Northampton.



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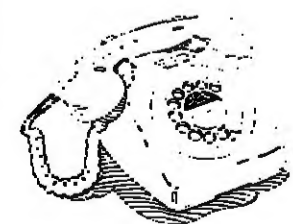
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David Watt

# Three years on, the ironic anniversary

May 4, 1979:

Mrs Thatcher arriving at Number 10: 'Where there is discord may we bring harmony. Where there is error may we bring truth'



April 25, 1982:

With John Nott, after the recapture of South Georgia: 'We should rejoice... and congratulate our forces'



A Conservative MP told me yesterday that after the sinking of HMS Sheffield he felt guilty that he and his colleagues should have spent so much of the week speculating about the effect of the Falklands crisis on the local government elections.

One sees what he means. Beside questions of physical survival in the south Atlantic, questions of political survival in the town halls and even at Westminster are to be seen in a very different perspective. Nevertheless he should not feel excessively defensive. The Falklands crisis has already been affected by domestic politics and will ultimately be determined by them. Equally, domestic politics will be determined by the Falklands conflict. The two cannot be separated.

The fate of Mrs Thatcher, and the Government, now hinges on the issue and the way the electorate eventually judges the outcome. The knowledge that this is so will powerfully (and rightly) affect the decisions of the Cabinet and Parliament's attitude to negotiations. In other words, the fate which ordained with sublime malignity that the Sheffield should be destroyed on the third anniversary of the day on which Mrs Thatcher took office had some ironic significance.

It would be easy to say that without the Falklands question the Thatcher government would be in good shape; and indeed just a few weeks ago, before the crisis blew up, the conventional wisdom in Conservative circles proclaimed that it was all going to come right after all — and for a good variety of reasons. First the economy.

The indicators are beginning to look up: inflation is coming down fast and the underlying tone of the stock market is buoyant. British industry, by common consent, has become more competitive from having shed jobs and sharpened its management practices during the recession. Admittedly unemployment is bound to remain above three million until after the election but it has been so bad for so long that the voters may now

accept it as a fact of life, beyond the scope of politics and politicians. If it is showing a downward trend at the election that will be, on this calculation, quite good enough.

Next there is the coherence and credibility of the Government's team. The Prime Minister herself is said by her officials to be growing in skill and self-confidence. Her supporters believe moreover that the Cabinet, having wrenched by one means or another such awkward foreign bodies as Lords Carrington and Soames, Sir Ian Gilmour and Mr St John Stevas, is now a reasonably homogenous body subservient to Mrs Thatcher's will. It only needs the departure of Mr Prior and possibly, in due course, the decent retirement of Mr Whitley to be more or less ideal.

This last point is not mere commentator's sarcasm. There is a genuine argument here, conceded even by some wets, that the public is getting used to a right-wing government. The debate about monetarism continues to rage at the academic level but essentially it is over because the Government has won. There is wide acceptance that unpleasant economic medicine had to be prescribed.

Moreover, the argument continues, Mrs Thatcher's position on law and order, conservatism, decentralisation and the trade unions are all, in practice, those he great mass of the public. People admire her even if they do not like her and are more likely to vote for her if they feel she is in control than if she is having to compromise her principles.

Seen in this light, the Falklands crisis is an unfortunate incident which, if it drags on indefinitely, ends in what appears to be defeat, will no doubt undo all the good effects listed above but which, if it can be settled quickly and with some semblance of honour, will leave the basic Conservative advantages untouched and even enhanced by the positively Churchillian image of steadfastness, determination and patriotism with which it will be possible to clothe the Prime Minister.

This is an attractive prospect and there is no earthly way of proving that it is wrong. On the other hand there is undoubtedly a plausible counter case to be made. So far as the underlying economic situation is concerned, it can certainly be argued that the timing is wrong.

Unless the American econ-

omy stages a major recovery this year (which looks increasingly improbable) the British economy will remain depressed until well into 1983 and possibly for the whole of the year. In any case the optimistic scenario depends on two other improbables — in the short term a pick-up in investment even if demand is slack and in the longer term the willingness on the part of the unions (and the voters) to watch profits go up rather than wages.

On the credibility of the Cabinet, more particularly the Prime Minister, there is, to put it at its lowest, a considerable price to be paid for homogeneity. Whatever the doctrinal arguments between wets and dries, the cumulative loss of the wets from the Cabinet in terms of experience and political weight would be quite damaging. The absence of men — or for that matter women — who are willing and able to take on Mrs Thatcher in argument must eventually have had for policy.

Almost everything that has happened in the past three years, from her first reference to St Francis of Assisi to her 'rejoice' over South Georgia, bears witness to the fact that she is an impetuous woman whose instincts are highly combative and

emotional. She is also an experienced politician but reason, caution and calculation come second and need to be evoked by the passage of time and the painful process of argument.

Since she is often overbearing in the extreme (an old hand recalls Melbourne's remark: "I wish I was as certain of one thing as Tom Macaulay is about everything") it takes some courage and political muscle to act as midwife to her rational reactions. These are not attributes now much in evidence, and there are a number of people on the Conservative back benches and in her coterie who do their utmost to persuade her that the voice of her right-wing prophet and all others false. The results are frequently impressive and sometimes admirable but the total effect on her prime ministership is dangerous.

This consideration leads to another: that while the present Government may well have shifted the centre of political gravity towards the Thatcher position (as Sir Keith Joseph always hoped) that does not mean that the British, after several hundred years, have suddenly become people easy to lead from a position far away from what

ever appears at the time to be the middle ground.

The charge of "extremism" is always a damaging one in British politics but the practical difficulties of achieving compromise in a complicated open society are the really substantial drawback to the abandonment of the centre. The Falklands affair puts much of this to the test. The Prime Minister has apparently shown all her best qualities — courage and stamina — during the last week but also some of her worst — impetuosity and inflexibility.

She is in an embattled state. She has lost in Lord Carrington a man who never shrank from standing up to her. Mr Whitelaw and Mr Pym are, to put it delicately, more oblique in their arguments and both lack self-confidence in foreign policy. Mr Nott, who was appointed Defence Secretary specifically to cut the budget, is out of his depth. Again much of the advice Mrs Thatcher has to rely on comes from the Foreign Office, of which she is profoundly suspicious.

On top of all this the real pinch is that it is hard to see a way out of the crisis that does not involve either all-out war against Argentina on the one hand or some compromise of the principles Mrs Thatcher has proclaimed. The country does not want the first, and the 60 or so right-wing MPs on the Conservative back benches who constitute her strongest support will not countenance the second.

If, as I expect, Mrs Thatcher's head eventually beats her doctrinal conscience I do not say she chooses to risk the displeasure of her immediate supporters rather than the long-term resentment of the electors, she is not, in my opinion, home and dry.

But since a compromise is probably the only way of maintaining some semblance of national consensus into the fourth year of her administration it at least gives her a sporting chance, and for this reason it is really the only possible course.

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## Contraception: how many will heed the Pope?

by Clifford Longley  
Religious Affairs Correspondent

There used to be a trilogy of Roman Catholic evils, lumped together and condemned in a sweeping phrase: "contraception, abortion, and euthanasia." It was a fair bet, 20 years ago, that if a Roman Catholic priest or bishop were sermonizing on moral issues, by "moral" he meant those three. Somehow in that period of time the list shrank to two. It is now discernibly expanding again, to include nuclear war, racial discrimination, and Third World issues. But contraception, somewhere along the line, has dropped out of sight.

It would be extremely difficult to trace a single official statement of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales in the last decade that said anything at all about contraception. There is an embarrassed silence. Many priests, the majority of Roman Catholic lay people, and even possibly most bishops in this country do not support their church's official teaching. Mention it in the context of Pope John Paul II's visit to Britain later this month, and there is a distinct drawing of breath through clenched teeth. The Pope goes all the way with the official line, and is going to say so when he comes.

He considers himself an expert on the subject of sex and marriage, and as Pope he can lay down the law single-handed. Thus while a synod of bishops spent the Roman autumn of 1980 making speeches to each other about family life, the Pope was delivering a series of weekly homilies on the subject in St Peter's. One of them produced his famous remark about husbands committing adultery with their wives, something the bishops had not thought of.

At the end of the synod he told them some of the answers to the complex issues that had been causing them such anguish rather as if they had asked him. That occasion produced the almost equally famous ruling that divorced Catholics in second marriages could not receive the sacraments unless they lived chastely as brother and sister.

It was not the answer the bishops had come to, and it horrified the English delegation. Cardinal Hume, needless to say, has not passed the instruction on to his flock.

The English bishops, for the first time in the progressive vanguard of Catholic opinion, had been working for some time to open the Vatican's locked door. They hurt their fingers when the Pope slammed it shut again. Cardinal Hume and the Archbishop of Liverpool, Monsignor Derek Worlock, had seen the surveys of opinion in the English church, and concluded that the contraception issue was responsible for a damaging sense of alienation among the faithful.

When the pastoral congress of the Roman Catholic Church took place at Liverpool in spring 1980, they decided the problem could be suppressed no longer. The anxiety and confusion of lay delegates to the congress came into the open, and there was a large majority for the proposition that the traditional line would have to be changed — a development to use the more respectful, generally preferred word.

What they meant was clear enough. The traditional line

states that every time a Roman Catholic married couple have sexual intercourse using a contraceptive device, or every time they have intercourse if the wife is on the pill — for contraceptive reasons, they are committing a mortal sin. Only if they repent of their actions, in confession to a priest, can they receive Holy Communion. The sin, as declared by Pope Pius XI in 1930 and Pope Paul VI in 1968, is intrinsic to the act. No amount of good will or right intention can justify it.

Pope John Paul holds this position firmly. The delegates to the pastoral congress certainly did not. The message was carried to Rome by Cardinal Hume and Mr Worlock, and they returned rebuffed. Subsequently the Pope has reiterated the traditional line in his official response to the synod published last year, and the impasse is as solid as ever. The Liverpool congress appears nevertheless to have drained some of the poison off, simply by letting the lay Roman Catholic voice be heard.

There remains a quite numerous section of the Catholic population, particularly older people, which loyally upholds the traditional teaching. Meanwhile the Catholic birth-rate has fallen to the point where it is not significantly different from the rest of the population, and the majority of young married Catholics have somehow come to terms with their consciences (sometimes after a word of reassurance from a priest that the ban on contraception is perhaps not quite like other parts of the Catholic faith, being ignorable so long as it is ignored in a serious-minded sort of way).



Pope John Paul II: laying down the law

The Pope's contribution to healing this division in the Catholic Church was to instruct moral theologians that they should produce more convincing arguments in support of the traditional line. There may be theologians who have responded, but the consensus of their peers is against them.

Most theologians who do not want trouble have directed their energies elsewhere; because if they had to about contraception they would be regarded as challenging the Pope's authority. It was contraception, after all, which sent the Swiss theologian Hans Küng in his exploration of the limits of papal authority on moral matters, and he was stripped of his title as a Catholic theologian by the Vatican as a result.

Theologians have generally avoided writing about sexual matters, just as bishops and priests, in England at any rate, have avoided preaching about them. It is not a healthy situation, and the heavy paper empire of the issue can only make it worse.

There is one more reason why the issue would not be welcome. There is I believe, some mention in Trollope, though the masterpiece there may have been in the seemingly privacy of a bedroom or the like.

PHS's polite advice to those who are still flouting cards is: "Do as I do. Get a date-line, and keep it by your writing desk."

**Just playing dead**  
Chris Galer, who sent his manuscript radio play *Thin Ice* a birthday card after it had been languishing in the drama production office of BBC Radio Wales for a year, has now received a reply from Cardiff. It is a mourning card, inscribed on the front: "In Deepest Sympathy". Inside it says: "Thoughts of deepest sympathy are with you at this sad time."

All is not lost, though. The producer's secretary explains that the script is still alive, though neglected because her boss has had pleurisy. Galer is now sending the producer a "Get Well Soon" card.

**Diary quiz**  
In this week's news:  
1. How was it that APTs tipped both off the track and down the pan?  
2. Does an attempt to disguise garlicky breath with peppermint end in failure?  
3. What were Gimcrack's winnings at the Two Thousand Guineas meeting at Newmarket?  
4. Who has been reliving her agonies in America?  
Answers here on Monday.

PHS

## How the anti-lead lobby fuelled the petrol debate

At the international gurus of the lead poisoning controversy converge on London this weekend for a conference organized by the aggressive campaign dedicated to embarrassing the government into taking lead out of petrol. It is worth assessing how far that crusade has gone and in which direction.

By the end of the year, the Campaign for Lead-Free Air (CLFA) may well have persuaded all three opposition parties to take up lead-free petrol policies. It has recharged and polarized a debate which looked set to fade in the aftermath of last year's government decision to cut but not eliminate lead from petrol. In the face of the issue's almost unique capacity for arousing public anxiety over child health, government ministers are looking for appeasing measures.

The Times has now investigated how the original government announcement came to be made. The findings show that it was a prolonged battle over tangled priorities, and in the end the ministers went down the line of least expensive resistance. Muddled evidence that the invisible and tasteless lead aerosol emitted by car exhausts may damage children's intelligence, traded against the health and safety of British Leyland and the government's unwillingness to do anything which cost money about other crucial sources of lead pollution. If the campaign wins,

it will be a rare example of moral politics defeating realpolitik.

The negotiation began in November 1979 when a working party of civil servants, chaired by Mr John Rowcliffe, a Department of the Environment under-secretary in charge of the ministry's Central Directorate of Environmental Pollution, started to digest two documents: the "Lawther Report", a Government-commissioned study of lead pollution, and a lesser-known report written by a civil service-industry committee on the costs and implications of various possible decisions about petrol lead (known by its acronym as the WOPLIP report). The working party was to sit for almost 18 months before presenting a divided report to a cabinet committee and was attended by, or heard from, the departments of health, transport, environment, energy, industry, the Treasury and London Transport.

According to a Department of Energy internal memorandum of July 1980, both the DHSS and the DoE began by arguing that not only should there be an immediate cut in the lead content of petrol, but that it should be accompanied by "a further commitment to lead-free petrol." Some progress has been made, said the note, "in establishing wider areas of agreement, but it is not possible to resolve the fundamental departmental differ-

ences at official level".

Contrary to the claims of both the attackers and the defenders of lead, the health and environment officials had some muted support for their stand from the Lawther committee. The committee of experts published its report three months after the working party first met and its chorus of criticism for its dismissive attitude to the evidence on the risks from petrol lead.

Its only recommendations on the subject said that "emissions of lead to the air from traffic and other sources should be progressively reduced"; Lawther and at least several of his colleagues meant that the lead level in petrol should be reduced until it reached zero. "I was in favour," Professor Lawther said last week, "and I still am."

Although when the research was published almost a year later, its conclusions were hedged with cautions, the reports brought back to their department by the

DHSS officials present at the meeting created a fear that the Government might announce a cautious cut in lead decision at almost exactly the same moment as a key piece of research advanced knowledge of its dangers. But during that autumn, the push towards the lead-free position was being abandoned. Why?

Inside the flurry of obstacles thrown up by government spokesmen from the Prime Minister downwards since the launch of the new CLEAR campaign, there are two problems still seen as insuperable. No solution to the problem which would really alter lead levels in the atmosphere was going to be cheap and the dilemma was to settle where the costs should fall. If there was to be a sharp cut but nothing else, the cost fell on the oil companies. If there was to be a gradual phase-out of lead from petrol, there would be a slightly higher national fuel consumption and the costs would fall on the car manufacturers.

The Department of Industry argued that a move to lead-free petrol ahead of the rest of Europe would weaken British Leyland during the transition. If foreign car manufacturers were better placed to sell cars in Britain, running on lead-free, production lines would have to be adapted to make both lead-free and leaded petrol engines and that any increase in the cost of cars or fuel might depress demand for cars.

While all these arguments are challenged by the anti-lead campaigners, they have not so far found many converts in Whitehall. And the safety of British Leyland would have found a receptive ear at the EEA cabinet committee which made the eventual decision 13 months ago to lay the cost on the oil refiners by bringing the lead level down to 0.15 grams per litre by the end of 1985. It was established, not to consider ecological questions, but micro-industrial problems.

Ministers have sometimes argued that EEC regulations prevent a move to lead-free petrol, citing either the directive which says that governments should not set lead levels lower than 15g/l or the fact that foreign manufacturers of leaded petrol cars might claim that the change would be a barrier to selling their cars in Britain. The minimum limit is regarded in Whitehall as being changeable if any country wants to lower it. The articles of the Treaty of Rome which deal with the trade restraint exempt any restrictions which can be justified by the protection of "human or animal life or health." Neither of these problems approaches the dimensions of the two main snags.

The second of those was a sense of priorities which has ensured that because of the immediate action on the sources of lead pollution is hard, full action on the

minor sources will have to wait. The Government accepted the scientific consensus that petrol lead is a minor contributor to each person's "burden" of lead; new evidence appears to challenge that assumption.

None of the departments at the discussions were prepared to spend extra money to help replumb buildings with lead piping or to redecorate houses with flaking leaded paint; on those crucial sources, action has been confined to exhortation and the extension of the home improvement grant scheme to cover new piping.

The polarised confrontations of the last few months have obscured the fact that the voices which combine scepticism about the evidence with an advocacy of eliminating lead. Professor Michael Rutter, a professor of child psychiatry who was retained by the Lawther committee to review the evidence on lead and intelligence calls the research "muddy" but says that the government should "play safe." As Professor Lawther himself put it: "I personally think that banning lead from petrol will only mean a drop of 10 or 15 per cent of each person's lead and there are far worse sources. But OK if the world wants to pay for that much, who am I to wish pollution in the air?"

George Brock

## Nye's widow says no to another BBC TV request

Baroness Lee, the widow of Aneurin Bevan, has cancelled her engagement to appear on the BBC 2 programme *Did you see...?* tomorrow night. The reason is the offence she took at what she calls the "unpleasant vulgarity" of the script of Paul Ferris's documentary *Nye*, which BBC 1 screened last weekend.

Baroness Lee refused to help Ferris, with his research in preparation for the play, though she did talk for six hours with John Hartley, the actor who played her husband. In the event she found the play "a travesty, creating a completely wrong impression."

No doubt *Nye* is intended to be a major topic on this week's *Did you see...?* Baroness Lee's place has been taken by Jill Craigie, the wife of Michael Foot who succeeded Bevan in his Ebbw Vale constituency and is his biographer. Foot himself was the first to be invited. "Jill Craigie is fine," Baroness Lee told me yesterday. "She will represent the views of both Michael and myself. Michael was like a younger brother in our family."

## Curbing cuts

One of the sensational aspects of the long parliamentary career of the late Lord Janner, who died this week, was his ultimately successful campaign against

pick-knives. In 1954 he surrounded the Commons by brandishing such a weapon in the House. The Home Secretary was quickly intimidated into tightening restrictions on their sale. The incident is well-remembered because my colleague Laurie Weston, then a young journalist in Leicester, was an accomplice before the act. It was he who suggested the idea to Janner, and who bought the knife on his behalf.

## Front-runner

Among the runners in Sunday's London Marathon PHS's money is on Richard Paice. I do not take him to win, but I hope he finishes because he has come from Cairn to raise money by running the race for the Brooke Hospital for Animals in Egypt. This institution originated in the philanthropy of Dorothy Brooke, the wife of a British cavalry officer, who was appalled at the fate of 22,000 British war horses sold to the Egyptians at the end of the First World War and worked there for long years afterwards.

The hospital's clinics are still hard at work in Cairo, Luxor and Alexandria, tending as many as 9,000 broken-down equines a year.

## Artistic thanks

The parish of Upton-cum-Chelvey in Slough has devised a pretty gift to thank Rosalind Runcie, the pianist wife of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who is giving a recital in aid of their church restoration fund in the

## THE TIMES DIARY

Robin Borwick, founder and vice-president of the Donkey Breed Society reacted eagerly to my mention that the Shropshire and West Midlands Agricultural Society show would hold classes for "cattle, horses, sheep, even donkeys." Since 1967, he says, his society has encouraged its members to breed only from the best stock, which has resulted in the virtual elimination of uneven donkeys. This, I suppose, is what they call asinine humour.

large Victorian church of St Mary's tomorrow. Instead of a bunch of flowers, she will be given a presentation goblet engraved by the artist, Kate Richardson, who is the daughter of a previous rector and was herself married in St Mary's.

Is it a deliberate refinement of the torture of travel by tube that London Transport places cigarette advertisements in almost every non-smoking compartment on the Central Line?

## Save the king

Even in Togo there was no getting away from the Falkland Islands dispute. While in Lome I met Michael Dunn, a Californian expedition guide, who returned from the islands earlier this year. His principle concern was that Britain's bombing raids on the Stanley airport runway might have damaged East Falkland's recently re-established colonies of king penguins in reserves at Volunteer Point and on Kidney Island nearby. The kings are the largest and most beautiful of the

islands' five breeding penguin species, and were previously subject to depredation in the whaling days when their oil was used in lamps. Ecologically, Dunn said, the Falklands are as valuable as the Galapagos.

## Visitors barred

Dating back to her childhood in Buenos Aires, Jill Goulder has an Argentine version of Monopoly. It is called Estanciero and features Argentine provinces. The chief difference from the English version of the game is that there is no "Visiting" in gaol. If you land on gaol you are behind bars and that's it.

## Out for the count

Hay-fever sufferers in the Irish Republic have been caught up in the Falklands affair. The pollen trap used by the Department of Botany at Dublin's Trinity College to take the daily pollen count, normally published at this time of year, was lent to the British Antarctic Survey team in the South Atlantic and its return

has been hampered by hostilities. It will not now reach Dublin until May 19.

## Free flight

A housemaster at Culford School, Bury St Edmunds, has been making a study of pigeon post. John Humphries tells me that pigeon-fanciers of the Suffolk and Essex Border Federation hire a lorry, a driver and a liberator to take their pigeons in a three-day tour to the north of Scotland. The cost per bird, at 38p, comfortably undercuts the Post Office.

The birds' own performance on the return journey is even more impressive. Not only do they travel free, but with a following wind a bird released in Thurso at 5 am can be back in its Ipswich loft at any time from 3.30 pm.

A heavenward glance while walking along Old Bailey reveals that Justice's scale pans are leaky. The sky can be seen through holes in the centre of each pan in the gilt statue's balance. The Central Criminal Court assures me that Justice is not giving short weight. The holes are there to let rainwater out.

## Polite mantel

Debutant Etiquette and Modern Manners are in plebeian paperback today, published by Pan at a not too impudent £2.50. Elsie Burch Donald, the editor, tells me that there has been no argument with her editors since the book was first published last year, save some well-publicized



outrage over sleeping arrangements for unmarried couples, which need not concern us here. What I do wonder is whether anybody took any notice of her advice that invitations should be kept off the drawing-room mantelpiece. PHS's mantel carries nothing but a stopped clock, some half-burnt candles, assorted ornaments and a few old corks, but in homes I visit I still see the fireplace surrounded by ostentatiously displayed cards. This curious custom of display is well-entrenched in upper circles, though it is plainly liable to hurt neighbours and friends who see that the recipients have been bitten where they them-

selves would not be welcome. There is I believe, some mention in Trollope, though the masterpiece there may have been in the seemingly privacy of a bedroom or the like.

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PHS



reception: many will the Pope? Clifford Longley



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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## BEYOND THE BATTLE

It is now evident that intense diplomatic activity is taking place in an attempt to find a negotiated solution to the Falklands crisis. In itself that is all to the good. What is required is a just settlement, and it would obviously be better if that can be brought about without the shedding of any more blood. But it should not be assumed that any negotiated settlement must be its very nature be a just one. There are certain criteria that must be satisfied if negotiations are not simply to offer diplomatic clothing for a failure to enforce a principle.

The first criterion was set out by Mrs Thatcher at question time yesterday: "there can be no ceasefire unless it is accompanied by withdrawal which is fully and properly supervised." Other- wise a ceasefire would simply provide a lull in the conflict which would not only leave the Argentine in full control of the islands but would also enable it to pour in supplies so that its troops would be much better equipped to withstand a further blockade if the ceasefire were to break down. This would mean that a ceasefire, far from being the first step towards a reasonable settlement, would remove all military pressure from the Argentine to make any further concessions.

Mrs Thatcher also said: "there must be a process as to the timing, sequence and verification of events." The phraseology is interesting. It is not quite the same as saying that the Argentine forces must clear out of the islands before anything else can be discussed. It allows for the possibility of a phased procedure, with interlocking arrangements, provided that Britain was not required to act simply on the basis of good faith. There would have to be adequate proof that at any particular stage they had actually done what they had undertaken to do.

These are questions requiring delicate judgment. It would be unwise for British public opinion to seek in advance to tie the hands of their negotiators on points of detail. Some flexibility will be required if there is to be a chance of reaching any agreement. But it is right to insist that whatever arrangements for withdrawal are made must be absolutely precise. It will be necessary to take great pains to ensure that what is thought to be a phased settlement does not turn out to be an unconditional ceasefire.

For the longer term there are a number of possibilities. It is not, and has never been

throughout this crisis, part of the British case to insist that the Falklands remain permanently under British jurisdiction. This is not a colonial conflict. What is at issue is the right of the islanders not to be forced to join another state or even to submit to its overall control against their will. This is a right that must be observed if any settlement is to be regarded as a just one.

That does not mean that the Falklanders alone should be able to choose their future constitutional status, or that they need to be involved in every stage of the negotiation; nor does it mean that their previous constitutional status cannot be changed. A lasting settlement, which must be in their interest as much as anybody else's, may in the long term require that the issue should be internationalised in one way or another to achieve their greater security, which is the universal aim. One possibility would clearly be some form of United Nations trusteeship. But whatever is agreed must ultimately receive the endorsement of the islanders themselves, freely given, in circumstances of undisputed freedom. That should not be too much to ask of an international organisation that subscribes to the principle of self-determination.

## THE ITALIAN REVIVAL

The election of Signor Ciriaco de Mita as Secretary-General of the Italian Christian Democrat party probably brings closer the end of Signor Giovanni Spadolini's government founded on the co-operation of Christian Democrats and Socialists. Signor de Mita represents the wing of Christian Democracy which is hostile to the ambitions of the Socialist leader, Signor Bettino Craxi, and willing to consider a new arrangement with the Communists (short of giving them seats inside the cabinet) in order to recapture the premiership for the Christian Democrats, who believe that as the largest party they have a right to it.

Italian governmental politics are a bizarre and byzantine game whose details are followed only by the immediate players, while the rest of the world finds it difficult even to pretend to take an interest. Only occasionally are the contours of Italian politics thrown into sudden and lurid relief by a dramatic spotlight, as happened in 1975 when the Communists seemed on the threshold of government, or again in 1978 during the appalling calvary of Aldo Moro. Even then, attention soon wandered. The drama itself was stark enough, but the reactions of the Italian political forces to it were too complex for an impatient foreign opinion to grasp.

One can now see, however, that the Italian system has survived the acute crisis through which it passed in the mid-1970s. For all its disgust at the corruption and despair at the incompetence of the Christian Democrats, the nation did not throw itself into the arms of the Communists. Nor did it succumb to the onslaught of terrorism by abandoning democracy and calling in an authoritarian government. The state, a perennial object of resentment and contempt for most Italians, quivered under the shock but did not collapse, and has now begun a counter-attack. General Dozier's rescue and the current trial of Signor Moro's killers are striking results.

The economy, whose dynamism had been slowed by the "hot autumn" of 1969 and then apparently broken by the oil crisis, has also survived and begun to pick up again. In spite of massive public debt, and high inflation, growth has resumed in the current year, and exports amount to 25 per cent of gross national product.

But Italy has not only survived the crisis. Something more positive has happened, something new has been born — variously described as "a state", "a democracy" or "a nation". Hitherto, Italian loyalties have been focussed either at local or at supranational level. Both Christian Democracy and the Commu-

nist Party, the forces which have dominated postwar Italian politics, were expressions of transnational ideologies building on local bonds and local grievances, uninterested in the Italian state as such except as a source of patronage and power.

Now, more than a hundred years after the formal unification of the country, the state has begun to come into its own, symbolized by the active presidency of Signor Pertiniani and the premiership of Signor Spadolini, both members of the secular elite identified with the Risorgimento.

But the quarrel between the "laici" — the small secular parties of the centre — and the big ideological parties, Communist and Christian Democrat, may itself be becoming an anachronism. The Christian Democrats are bringing on to the stage a new generation of leaders, and are beginning to function more as a national party while the Church, their natural patron, is gradually withdrawing from Italian politics under its non-Italian head. The Communists too, over Poland, have broken more decisively and convincingly than ever with their supranational patron. Even under the leadership of these two parties, a truly national, truly democratic state may be gradually emerging.

## AMERICA'S EXPOSED ECONOMY

The problem of the dollar has dominated the international monetary scene for more than ten years. It is the dollar's role in the world monetary system that makes the rest of the world so keenly aware of what is happening to domestic American economic policy and interest rates. The one country which has shown little interest in the dollar's exchange rate is the United States. The Reagan Administration has stressed again and again that it will not intervene in foreign exchange markets to change the value of the dollar.

Now a group of the world's leading experts on the world's financial system, including some of the most influential central bankers, has recommended that the United States should reconsider its attitude. Their views ought to be taken to heart by the American Administration and should be pressed on Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary, by the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the two men meet in London today.

The suggestion comes from the Group of Thirty, a "think tank" led by Dr Johannes

Witteveen, the former Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund. The group says that the United States should show greater willingness to intervene in foreign exchange markets and should cut its budget deficit. It says that the United States economy is no longer capable of being run as if it were self-contained. Other nations in the world have had to learn the painful lessons of interdependence since the war. Until recently the sheer size of the American economy seemed to exempt it from this law.

A greater openness to international trade also means that American inflation is more susceptible to big falls in the value of the dollar. It is tempting for governments to want to cut down on the number of economic variables which they are trying to control. But the United States now has great reasons of its own for wanting the external value of the dollar to stay relatively stable if it wants the internal value of its currency to stay stable. In that sense, the United States has become an open economy in the way that small countries such as

Britain and Sweden are open economies.

The case for saying that a stable dollar is in America's interests is thus very strong. Opponents of intervention do not usually deny this overtly any longer. But they say that all intervention is bound to end up destabilising foreign exchange markets, not stabilising them. There is no basis for this assertion. It is true that intervention alone cannot fight against underlying forces. But properly used it can do something to cut down the often irrational swings which occur in markets with floating exchange rates. The Administration ought to open its mind to this possibility.

It should also, as the report stresses, ensure that it does not end up with a tough domestic monetary policy and a loose fiscal policy pulling in opposite directions. The signs of a compromise between the White House and Senate Republicans on taxes in the coming years are an encouraging step in the right direction. But further progress to cut the deficit is going to be needed if the markets are going to be convinced.

## Poplar councillors

From Mr Robert Latham.

Sir, Your leader on the Camden Council (April 30) implies that the Poplar councillors went to prison in the 1920s because they refused to pay the surcharge imposed on them for introducing the £4 minimum wage for their employees.

This was not the case. They were imprisoned for refusing to levy the rate imposed by the London County Council. This enabled them to spend more in

helping the unemployed while simultaneously reducing the local rate burden on their electors. They emerged from prison victorious since the rating system was radically transformed as a result of their protest.

The case of the £4 minimum wage paid to the employees came a little later. Although the law provided that the council could pay such wages "as they think fit", the district auditor did not think that the words "as they think fit" meant what they said, and neither did the judges when the case went to the courts.

By the time the Law Lords had found in the auditor's favour, the surcharges totalled over £50,000. But the councillors never paid the surcharges and never went to prison. The Minister of Health quashed the surcharges and in turn got himself into trouble with the law. The detailed story is told in a recent book *Poplartism* by Noreen Branson.

Yours etc.

ROBERT LATHAM,  
10 Albert Street,  
Camden Town, NW1.

## The Falklands: seeking a diplomatic solution

From Mr Peter Vis.

Sir, With the saddening loss of the Sheffield, and more particularly the 30 men's lives, there is an even greater urgency for an ending of hostilities in the South Atlantic. It further stresses the need for a ceasefire, and for a new peaceful initiative to be taken. The alternative seems only to be a continuation, and very possibly a further escalation, of this state of undeclared warfare which can only lead to a further loss of life. Surely more people are recognizing now that the hostilities are getting increasingly out of proportion.

But the need for the Government itself to call for a ceasefire needs to be stressed all the more in view of the increasing difficulty for Britain to come out of this crisis "with honour" and without increasing the already excessively high price paid in terms of human life. With British lives having been lost the Government may feel that there is an even greater pressure to achieve something more than what has been achieved by previous negotiations. There is now too great a danger of the Government adopting the political inclination to go on, and even escalate action, rather than draw back and give a negotiated settlement another chance.

To go on would be to undertake a hazardous political and military gamble. It is not too late to negotiate; in fact, to do so is imperative if more lives are not to be lost. The Government should instigate moves for a ceasefire and recognise that discretion, and a little more flexibility in our negotiating position, may be the less spectacular but undoubtedly more expeditious solution. Please let us learn the tragic lesson of Tuesday's action.

I remain, Sir,  
Yours faithfully,  
PETER VIS,  
St Catharine's College,  
Cambridge.  
May 5.

all of our aggressors and defenders should have on our desks:

"It is the nature of escalation that each move passes the other to the other side, while at the same time the party which seems to be losing will be tempted to keep raising the ante. To the extent that the response to a move can be controlled, that move is probably ineffective. If the move is effective it may not be possible to control or accurately anticipate the response. Once on the tiger's back we cannot be sure of picking the place to dismount."

These comments were true then and they are true even today. The Falklands conflict today, one thing, however, is certain, the Government cannot be faulted in their resolve and conduct and deserve our backing for the instant recognition they have properly made that if democracies are not prepared for sacrifices and shy away from casualties we will all inevitably eventually live under dictatorships of one kind or another.

Your obedient servant,  
ANTHONY BEAUMONT-DARK,  
House of Commons,  
May 5.

From Mr T. E. Wilkerson.

Sir, On his most recent return from Washington the Foreign Secretary claimed yet again that one of our aims in the present dispute with Argentina is to show that armed aggression must not succeed. May I venture to disagree?

It is simply not our business to deliver moral homilies to the rest of the world, particularly when the homilies are delivered by an enormous task force. The only question that should concern us is whether the British inhabitants of the Falkland Islands are to be governed, against their will, by the military forces of a thoroughly nasty regime.

Yours faithfully,  
T. E. WILKERSON,  
Department of Philosophy,  
University of Nottingham,  
Nottingham.  
May 4.

From Canon Eric James.

Sir, Would it help negotiations on the Falklands on the crucial question of sovereignty to remember the words of the Foreign Office Minister, Lord Trefgarne, speaking for the Government on the British Nationality Bill, first, last July: "I must remind your Lordships that however strong the affection the fact remains that the Falklands are not and never have been a part of the United Kingdom."

And, secondly, last October, on the same Bill: "We cannot grant British citizenship to the peoples of one dependent territory and expect the others to stand idly by."

Clearly the Government did not want the Falklands to be British or, at any rate, not fully British.

Yours sincerely,  
ERIC JAMES, Hon-Director,  
Christian Action,  
43 Holywell Hill,  
St Albans,  
Hertfordshire.  
May 5.

From Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, MP for Selby Oak (Conservative).

Sir, I have been surprised that usually intelligent people have been saying that they disapprove of Argentina's action in the Falklands, and that it was right to send a task force, and yet immediately casualties arise it becomes wrong.

In the history of conflict, there has never been a painless war because there is an inability of able, rational people to control irrational events, and the Falklands is such an irrational event, as wars must always be to thinking people. The trouble is with conflicts as with this one, they are always started by irrational governments.

The situation we face is that we cannot deny this overtly, but the intensity and the scale of the war, therefore unless Argentina can be brought, not to unconditional surrender but to unconditional negotiations, we must prepare ourselves for more sacrifices and a time scale that we are not contemplating at the present time of course, however, George Ball, a distinguished American wrote to Robert McNamara, the Secretary of Defence during the Vietnam crisis in October 1964, words that

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Christian Action,  
43 Holywell Hill,  
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Hertfordshire.  
May 5.

## Capital punishment

From Mr M. D. Cawte.

Sir, My understanding of Mr. Fairbairn's piece on the availability of capital punishment (April 27) is that whilst measures such as advocates would introduce into proceedings a menacing uncertainty for the prospective criminal, yet they need scarcely to be called into use. The deterrent effect would be as a deterrent.

I am more dubious than Mr. Fairbairn: beautifully constructed paradoxes may not always hold in application. Unless the genuine availability of the capital penalty is demonstrated from time to time in crimes of, for example, burglary, which Mr. Fairbairn cites, that availability would rapidly become as theoretical as it may now be in the case of dockyard arson.

Yet how to distinguish which crimes are worthy of becoming, for want of another phrase, demonstration pieces? Mr. FitzGibbon (letter, April 29) is right: Her Majesty's judges are not fools. They work according to code of honourable precedent and long standing practice. Their judgement are not their own merely, but are informed by the decisions of collective judiciary exercised through the ages.

To transfer the exercise of that responsibility to, however diligent, a body of untrained jurors, as Mr. Fairbairn suggests, would add an insufferable burden to the jury-system and create in the administration of the law an arbitrariness which many would find unacceptable.

Mr. FitzGibbon raises a further point: the majority may be "insured" by necessity of hanging, but in matters of life and the law one hopes that a little more discrimination than that might be used in judging the matter. Instinct is a bad legislator, a worse policeman, and a truly unspeakable hangman.

Mr. FitzGibbon may, with Milton, feel that the instincts of the elect, if not of the elected, are surely guided by a right reason. I should have no such doubts. I should beg, with Cromwell, to think it possible that at times they might be wrong.

Yours etc.

MARTIN CAWTE,  
Hollington Court,  
Warrington,  
Near Haywards Heath,  
Sussex.  
April 29.

## Origins of printing

From Dr Christopher de Hamel.

Sir, Dr Lotte Hellings (April 24) makes several wise points of caution concerning the suggestion in the Gotheby catalogue of the Donauerschinger sale of manuscripts on June 21 that faint printed initials in a well defined group of Dutch manuscript Books of Hours may be connected with the famous legend of a Dutchman experimenting with stamping printed letters around 1430, the approximate date of the manuscripts in question.

I should like to make two small points: the first is that the existence of printed marks in this group of manuscripts was first noticed by Professor J. D. F. Fiering, to whom credit should go for this remarkable observation. The second is that by associating the marks with the old Coster story I had no thought of maintaining the certain fact that printing with movable type was devised in Mainz around 1450.

The new hypothesis, if true, would in fact neatly explain away the foolish Coster legend. Laurence Coster is said to have used stamped letters for making books and it was always supposed with hindsight that this meant whole books or block books. No

From Dr Derek Sayer.

Sir, The sinking of the General Belgrano, with the probable loss of several hundred lives, set me thinking about the constancy of the principles in whose name politicians commit mass murder. Some years ago Mr Ian Smith usurped British sovereignty in Rhodesia with the explicit aim of denying several million British subjects the right to self-determination. I do not recall the party of Mr Foot and (as it then was) Dr Owen instantly despatching a task force to make the world safe for democracy. And the Churchillian noises from the other side of the house had less to do with the need not to appease dictators than with "kith and kin".

Yours sincerely,  
DEREK SAYER,  
Department of Sociology,  
University of Glasgow,  
61 Southpark Avenue,  
Glasgow,  
May 4.

From Mr John A Flood.

Sir, It is ironic that in the present crisis with Argentina you should have felt it necessary to hold out your "Prisoner of Conscience" column (note, May 4).

Yours faithfully,  
John A Flood  
Newhouse Lane  
Leamington Spa  
Warwickshire  
May 4

From Lady Butterfield.

Sir, With reference to Mr Roberts' letter in *The Times* (April 29), is it not possible that the West may be moving into a new phase in world history when reliance upon formal declaration of war and the laws of war, as drawn up by the Geneva Conventions of the past, is becoming out of date? Perhaps we should be seeing the presence of the British task force in the South Atlantic (Entebbe, and the failed attempt by America to rescue the Iranian hostages being earlier examples) as the emergence of a police-like action, normally operative within the confines of a nation, which is now entering the realm of international affairs.

Yours faithfully,  
ISOBEL BUTTERFIELD,  
The Master's Lodge,  
Downing College,  
Cambridge.

From Captain P. D. Tatton-Brown, R.N.

Sir, It is clear from the Falkland Islands crisis that nuclear weapons cannot be used to protect British territory. We cannot use them to get Argentina to remove her troops from British soil. So a small country without nuclear weapons is not helpless in the face of a bigger one with them. So much for nuclear blackmail.

As will our politicians never learn that nuclear warheads are the most useless weapons. They cannot be used to fight a war. Not only is there no sensible use for them whatsoever, no sane person could ever find one; they are too ghastly.

If our politicians now learn this there is some hope for peace.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER TATTON-BROWN,  
Grasspark,  
Brayford,  
Barnstaple, Devon.

## Use of animals in circuses

From Mr A. C. W. Hart.

Sir, Miss Mary Chipperfield (May 3) attempts to justify the continued use of animals in circuses by referring to the wider issue of unemployment. The exploitation of animals cannot be accepted on such specious grounds. Animal abuses are never justified because they provide someone with a living.

The legislative process is a long one. There is further delay before enforcement. Circuses should have ample time in which to make suitable provision for their animals. The onus is firmly on the circus industry. It created the problem in the first place. The difficulties would be eased substantially if the zoos and safari parks did not provide animals for circuses.

On prosecutions, it is the RSPCA's view that existing legislation is inadequate and needs up-dating. Miss Chipperfield cannot be suggesting that there have been no advances in ethological and veterinary sciences since the Protection of Animals Act in 1911.

The anomalies of the law will be high-lighted when the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 is enforced. Zoos will then be under an obligation to keep their animals in regulated conditions. Circuses will remain exempted and may continue to house animals in squalid conditions, which the RSPCA and increasing numbers of the public regard as wholly unacceptable.

Yours faithfully,  
ANELAY HART,  
Chairman of the Council,  
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals,  
Horsham,  
West Sussex.  
May 4.

## John Walters case

From Mr Peter Hill and Mr Martin Young.

Sir, Our film about John Walters in the Rough Justice series was not at all incorrect in its reference to forensic evidence. Dr Symonds' letter (letter, April 29) will recall that evidence was brought at the trial that a laboratory liaison officer was seen by a police witness handling the clothes of both accused and victim while he moved them from plastic to paper bags ready for subsequent analysis. The defence suggested, as we said in the film, that this was how the fibres from John Walters' clothes could have come to be on the clothes of the victim, Miss Auliffe.

We are, of course, aware of the techniques used to analyse the cotton fibres. Our film included the main points of the forensic evidence presented at the trial and repeated in Dr Williams' letter. We did not dispute the analysis and neither did Dr Julius Grant, himself a leading fibres expert and forensic scientist. What Dr Grant did do, however, was to raise the important question about why there were no fibres to be found on the victim's clothes from the torn synthetic lining of Mr Walters' jacket.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER HILL,  
MARTIN YOUNG,  
British Broadcasting Corporation,  
Lime Grove Studios, W10.

## Tent pegging

From Colonel Iain Ferguson.

Sir, During a recent visit to Pakistan to watch the national tent pegging championships I asked the Commanding Officer of the President's Bodyguard (the Pakistan equivalent of The Household Cavalry) about the origin of the words "tent pegging".

Without hesitation he assured me that the sport is so called after the manner in which the Pathans attacked, by night, British Army camps during the operations on the North West Frontier.

The first wave of attackers rode into the camp throwing burning brands among the tents. As soon as the canvas was ablaze the second wave rode in and, with their lances, took the pegs out of the ground so bringing the burning tent down on the sleeping soldiers.

This summer a team of eight Pakistani tribesmen will be coming to the Royal Tournament to demonstrate their incredible skill at this sport. But as they ride to the original White Horse, may I have found nobody who can give any other explanation for the name.

Yours faithfully,  
IAIN FERGUSON,  
Director the Royal Tournament,  
Horse Guards,  
Whitehall, SW1.

## Novel on Greece

From Miss Mary Renault.

Sir, While I appreciated the friendliness with which you have received my television interview by David Sweetman, may I point out that I never did, or said I did, write my first novel about Greece without having been there?

Even the imposing examples set by Grote and Gibbon did not convince me that this would be a good thing. I began it before going, and said so; after writing a couple of chapters I set out, and stayed in Greece for some months. Some of *The Last of the Wine* was actually written in Athens.

Yours etc.

MARY RENAUD,  
3 Atholl Road,  
Cape 8001,  
South Africa.  
April 29





## COURT AND SOCIAL

### COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
May 6: Mr W. J. A. Wilberforce was received in audience by the Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as British High Commissioner to the Republic of Cyprus.

Mrs Wilberforce had the honour of being received by Her Majesty.

The Queen received the Bishop of Worcester (the Right Reverend Philip Harold Ernest Goodrich), who was introduced into Her Majesty's presence by the Right Hon Peter Walker, MP (Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) and did homage upon his appointment.

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food administered the Oath.

The Bishop of Bath and Wells (the Right Reverend John Charles Dickson) and the Gentleman of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, attended by Lord Rupert Nevill, this morning attended a Game Conservation International Convention at the Churchill Hotel, London, W1.

His Royal Highness, Air Commodore-in-Chief of the Air Training Corps, this afternoon received Air Commodore K. Goodwin upon relinquishing his appointment as Air Officer Commanding Air Cadets and Commander of the Air Training Corps and Air Commodore P. V. Mayall upon assuming the appointment.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Admiral of the Royal Naval Sailing Association, this evening presented the prizes for the Whitbread Round the World Race at the Royal Yacht Club, Chiswick, London, W4.

### Forthcoming marriages

**Mr T. J. L. Taylor and Miss N. A. Meek**  
The engagement is announced between Timothy, second son of Sir Jack and Lady Taylor, of British Embassy, Bonn, and Nicola, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Allan S. Meek, of Beckenham, Kent.

**Mr D. A. S. Gibbs and Miss S. M. Kimball**  
The engagement is announced between David Alexander Somerset, son of the late Patrick Somerset Gibbs and of Lady Lathbury, of Little Hazely House, Mortimer, Berkshire, and Marcia, elder daughter of Marcus and Lady Kimball, of Great Easton Manor, Market Harborough, Leicestershire.

**Mr P. J. Allen and Miss K. Kapsalis**  
The engagement is announced between Peter James, son of Mr and Mrs J. E. Allen, of Barnet, Hertfordshire, and Katrina, younger daughter of the late J. G. Kapsalis and Mrs Zena Kapsalis, of Arkley, Hertfordshire.

**Mr D. L. Green and Miss J. S. Yentis**  
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Green, of Edgeware, Middlesex, and Julia, daughter of Dr and Mrs Iwan Yentis, of Ickenham, Middlesex.

**Mr T. J. Harvey and Miss K. R. Smedley**  
The engagement is announced between Timothy, younger son of Mr and Mrs David Harvey, of Spinners, Sevenoaks, Kent, and Ruth, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Smedley, of Mousham, Burford, Oxfordshire.

**Mr N. M. R. Morrell and Miss A. I. Mackett**  
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, only son of Mr and Mrs R. G. Morrell, of Arnold, Nottingham, and Alison, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs D. E. Mackett, of Alton, Hampshire.

**Count Robert Pitt-Ferrandi and Mrs M. Percy-Davis**  
The marriage took place on April 30, at Opo, South of France, between Count Robert Pitt-Ferrandi and Mrs Maggie Percy-Davis.

Street, London, EC1, where His Royal Highness was received by the Chairman of Whitbread and Company Limited (Mr C. M. Tibbitt).

Christopher Menzies, RM was in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Fellow of the Fellowship of Engineering, attended the New Fellows Dinner at Apothecaries' Hall, Black Friars Lane, London, EC4, and was received upon arrival by the Secretary of the Fellowship (Mr M. W. Leonard).

Mr Richard Davies was in attendance.

**CLARENCE HOUSE**  
May 6: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother today visited the Duke of Gloucester at the Clarence House, London, to mark the Centenary of the Royal Cambrian Academy of Art.

Her Majesty travelled in an Aircraft of The Queen's Flight, piloted by the Vice-Martin Gilliat and Captain Ashe Windham were in attendance.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
May 6: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, this morning opened the Becton Dickinson Vactuator factory in Plymouth.

Her Royal Highness, who travelled in the Queen's Flight, was attended by Lady Anne Tennant.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
May 6: The Duke of Gloucester this morning opened the Chester-le-Street Civic Centre and in the afternoon visited the Royal Mail House, Darlington.

His Royal Highness travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, piloted by the Vice-Martin Gilliat and Captain Ashe Windham were in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester was accompanied by the Duke of Gloucester and the Duke of Kent, who were accompanied by the Duke of York and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Mr Colin Bagnall much regrets he was unable to attend the thanksgiving service for the life of Dr Spinks at St Margaret's, Westminster, yesterday.

**Mr N. D. Piel and Miss H. C. Johnson**  
The engagement is announced between Nigel, son of Mr and Mrs M. D. W. Piel, of St John's Wood, London, and Helen, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs W. E. Johnson, of Upwood, Cambridgeshire.

**Mr G. D. Kirk and Miss A. S. Gardner**  
The engagement is announced between Graeme Donald, only son of Mr and Mrs D. H. Kirk, of Stratham, London, and Wendy Alexandra, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs H. S. Gardner, of Nunthorpe, Cleveland.

**Mr R. Metcalfe and Miss M. T. Kelly**  
The engagement is announced between Richard, youngest son of Dr and Mrs R. Metcalfe, of The Villa, Madeley, Shropshire, and Marie Therese, elder daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs J. L. Kelly, of The Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

**Mr W. R. A. Denham and Miss C. Winkley**  
The engagement is announced between Roger, elder son of the late Mr John Denham and Mrs Dorothy Denham, of Martin, Hampshire, and Clare, younger daughter of Captain W. R. Winkley, of Gable House, Parbrook, Somerset, and Mrs Jane Winkley, of Wick Cottage, Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire.

**Marriage**  
The marriage took place on May 4, at the Church of St Bartholomew, Yong, Shropshire, between Mr Anthony Clark, younger son of the Rev Vivian and Mrs Clark, of The Glebe House, Clonsilla, and Miss Testa Hibbert-Hingston, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Hibbert-Hingston, of Kilsall Hall, Shropshire, officiated by the Bishop of Hereford, the Archbishop of Salop, Father Giles Hibbert, O.P., uncle of the bride, and the Rev. Wilfred Derry, also took part in the service.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was accompanied by Arabella Hill, Naomi Thornycroft, and Miss Joanna Clark, niece of the bridegroom. Mr Antonio, Restaurant Manager, of Wilfred Derry, was best man. A reception was held at the home of the bride.

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## Watchdog for cable TV is urged

By Kenneth Gosling

The spread of cable television companies in Britain will require a new consumer watchdog, the British Film Institute says today in its reaction to the Cable Office report on cable expansion and broadcasting policy.

The Institute says that cable television should have a more comprehensive public accountability than has attended broadcasting. The watchdog body should be one the public feels to be influential and representative and one the industry will not see as an interference but as facilitating a good relationship with its audience.

It says the most important area of public intervention, and the most difficult to achieve, is to control content to enable fair competition with conventional television. Cable operators, it points out, could in combination outbid the BBC and independent television for important national events, which could suddenly be withdrawn from public view and made available only to cable subscribers.

It would not mean royal and parliamentary events vanishing from public view, but important sporting occasions could easily disappear from ordinary television programmes to subscriber-cable.

The Institute says its experience of content suggests that films remain the staple and most valued offerings of cable systems, local programming being an additional but not highly remunerative element.

Conducted well, the process of cabling would increase the excitement and interest about new films, although it emphasised the need to ensure that Britain was not swamped with foreign or other overseas products.

"They should still, of course, be welcome and, indeed, encouraged, but as in television there needs to be some statutory guarantee for Britain's own products both for cultural and commercial reasons."

The Institute says it believes cable might help to reconstruct a permanent industry of British film and video production. It recommends payment by each cable licensee of a version of the cinema box office tax, with the proceeds directed to fund British producers, not on a grant basis but as an investment.

It also calls for a new and reorganised Cinematograph Film Council to advise the Government and says there should be an apparatus for deciding which company may be licensed to operate in what areas and on what terms.

It would itself wish to operate cable channels directly, a kind of national film theatre could result.

### Latest appointments

**Rear-Admiral P. M. Stanford**, aged 52, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Operational Requirements), who is in promotion to Vice-Admiral and Chief of the Naval Staff, in succession to Vice-Admiral Sir William Staveley, from October 1. The appointment carries with it membership of the Admiralty Board of the Defence Council.

**Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Gibbs**, aged 48, staff officer, Ministry of Defence, to be Principal Secretary to Princess Anne, in succession to Major Nicholas Lawson.

**Mr Benjamin G. Jones** is to be president of the Society of Cymmrodorion, in succession to Sir Thomas Parry.

**Mr N. L. Hall**, Deputy Master of the High Court, to be President of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, in succession to Sir Monty Emswiler.

**Mr Nigel Lawson**, Secretary of State for Energy, to be President of the British Association of University Teachers, in succession to Sir Peter Nairne.

**Mr Peter Nairne**, Chairman of the Society of Illustrators, to be President of the Society of Authors, in succession to Sir Peter Nairne.

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### Luncheons

**HM Government**  
Mr Francis Pym, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host at a luncheon held at Admiralty House yesterday in honour of Mr Nicos A. Kelland, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cyprus.

**Commonwealth Parliamentary Association**  
Sir Nigel Fisher, MP, deputy chairman, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, United Kingdom branch, and Mr Ernest Armstrong, MP, joint honorary treasurer, were hosts at a luncheon given at the House of Commons yesterday, by the executive committee of the United Kingdom branch of the Association, in honour of the 22 Commonwealth parliamentarians attending the 1982 Parliamentary visit.

**Butchers' Company**  
Mr N. L. Hall, Deputy Master of the High Court, was host at a luncheon held at Butchers' Hall, Lord Macpherson of Drumochter, was the guest of honour.

**Castaways Club**  
The annual dinner of the Castaways Club was held at the Royal Albert Hall, London, W1, on May 6. The Rev. S. R. Knight, chairman of the Society of Scribes and Illuminators, officiated and presided over the dinner.

**Mr Peter Nairne**, Chairman of the Society of Authors, to be President of the Society of Illustrators, in succession to Sir Peter Nairne.

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### Memorial services

**Dr A. Spinks**  
A memorial service for Alfred Spinks was held at St Margaret's, Westminster, yesterday. Canon Trevor Beeson officiated and the service was read by Sir Maurice Hodgson and Sir Ewart Jones, president of the Royal Society of Chemistry. An address was given by Dr D. Davies, Chief Scientist, Ministry of Defence, and a prayer was read by the Rev. S. R. Knight.

**Mr Spinks (widow)**, Mr and Mrs Spinks (children) and Mr Spinks (grandchildren) were present at the service.

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## OBITUARY

### SIR IAN HILL

Notable work in electrocardiography

Sir Ian Hill, CBE, Emeritus Professor of Medicine in the University of Dundee, and a former Honorary Physician to the Queen in Scotland, died on May 5 at the age of 77.

After a brilliant academic career as an undergraduate it was touch and go whether he became a barrister or a doctor (his choice). Fortunately, for clinical medicine he refused to devote himself to laboratory research, and his success as a teacher and organizer during his two decades as a professor of medicine in Dundee amply confirmed the wisdom of his choice not to be diverted from the field of clinical medicine.

A rather small insignificant figure physically, he compensated for this with a forcefulness of character, almost amounting at times in his younger days to aggressiveness, but mellowing with age. With this he combined an apparently inexhaustible supply of energy in his ability to tolerate fools but a clarity of mind that was able to unravel the mysteries of medicine with exemplary ease to the genuine seeker after knowledge. In this and many other ways he resembled the traditional Scottish dominie of an older generation: a hard task-master but always with a view to benefiting the students entrusted to his charge. Even his forms of reprobation were disciplined, and the student of conventional clubland will have no difficulty in placing him from the list of his clubs in *Who's Who* (Flyfishers, Royal and Ancient (St Andrews), and New Edinburgh).

His standing in the United Kingdom was reinforced by his serving at different times as president of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (from 1947 to 1958). He was consulting physician to Scottish Command for the quinquennium, 1965-1970.

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## The Proms French direction

The flavour of the year for the eighth season of the Proms is French. The concerts, which take place from July 16 to September 11, open with Berlioz's opera *The Trojans*, performed in two parts, on July 16 and 18. It will have an international cast, including Jessye Norman, Richard Cassilly, Felicity Palmer and Pierre Thau, and the BBC Symphony Orchestra will be conducted by Gennadi Rozhdestvensky, with John Matheson as associate conductor.

Another highlight among the score of French works will be the first UK performance of Boulez's *Repons*, conducted by the composer. This complicated electronic work, in which music is programmed by a computer, will be performed in the Royal Horticultural Hall on September 6, and played twice, with the audience sitting on the floor in different parts of the hall.

Dame Janet Baker will be one of the eminent artists at the Proms, making her last opera appearance in a concert performance of the Glyndebourne Festival Opera production of Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* on August 11. Yehudi Menuhin will be playing Bartok's second violin concerto (July 26) and Teresa Berganza makes her debut at the Proms on July 24.

Six composers have works given their world premieres during the season, including five BBC commissions. Hugh Wood, Nigel Osborne, Richard Rodney Bennett and Nareh Sahal have all written works for Proms 82, while Roger Smalley's Symphony in the movement, originally commissioned for last year's Proms, also receives its first performance. The sixth premiere will be John Hamilton's Symphony No. 3.

James Loughran will again conduct the last night, which breaks with the all-British tradition by including three French pieces, and the traditionalists will note that Beethoven's Choral Symphony will not be played on the penultimate evening. It is only a temporary omission, however, for Mr Robert Ponsonby, the BBC's Controller of Music, did not want to miss the opportunity of presenting Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, conducted by Sir Georg Solti, which replaces it.

Christopher Warman

## Minimalism carried to seductive limits

My Dinner With André (A)

Gate, Bloomsbury

Clean Slate (AA)

Curzon

No Mercy, No Future

ICA

The very least that can be said for Louis Malle is that he never repeats himself. There is little apparent connection, apart from high skill and a particular and compelling directness of observation, to link the succession of his work, from *Les Amants* to *Viva Maria*, and in more recent years, *Lacombe Lucien* and *Black Moon*. *Pretty Baby* and *Atlantic City*, *My Dinner With André*, certainly, is unlike any other film. It carries minimalism to its limits: apart from brief framing scenes of New York streets and highways, and the arrival of the principal characters at a ritzy restaurant (with trio, lowering maître and French haute cuisine), the entire action takes place at a dinner table where two men eat and converse.

The conversation was synthesized out of actual conversations recorded over a period of time by the two actors. Wallace Shawn is a plump, picky, shrill-voiced man, a playwright and reluctant actor. André Gregory, slight, serene, charming, with something of the hollow look of John Carradine, was an avant-garde New York theatre director until he embarked on the spiritual adventures he describes here, in what is for the most part a monologue.

On the way to the appointment, Shawn confesses his apprehensions: things he hears about Gregory, once his withdrawal from the theatre, suggest he has become sick or strange; leaving his family to wander off to India, Tibet and other places of mystical pilgrimage; or weeping in the street at the thought of Ingrid Bergman in *Autumn Sonata*, saying "I can live in my art but not in my life".

Our own first sight of Gregory seems to confirm Shawn's fears, as he launches off, with a zealot's gleaming eye, into tales of his admiration for Jerzy Grotowski; and how the Polish stage director similarly abandoned the theatre in favour of life; and how he has partaken of experiments in improvisation and free expression in Polish forests.

Quickly, though, Gregory's charm, his skill as narrator and his



Messianic mass-murderer and mistress: Philippe Noiret and Isabelle Huppert in "Clean Slate"

evident sincerity and seriousness take command, and make us share the excitement, the discoveries and the wreckage of his spiritual odyssey. We discover in him a good, clever, decent man who has shared a quite common experience of disillusion, with himself, his work, his relationship with the world around him, but who has, in a way that is not common, sought for other ways. The ways may be dead-ends or deceptions, but they represent an effort. He describes his discoveries of India and Tibet; eating sand in the Sahara with a Japanese Buddhist; his time in Finland, communing in Scotland, where he chatted to plants and refrigerators; being buried alive in Montana. He explores all the systems in Colin Wilson's philosophy, and more; and finds in them some laughter as well as ecstasy.

Gregory's search is recognizably only an extreme instance of the quest of those hundreds of eager American students you might find any day — sunburnt, tousled and hung about with haversacks — on the beaten tracks of European classical culture or Indian mysticism; but Gregory brings to the quest, beyond that specially Ameri-

can openness to experience, his intelligence, maturity, sensitivity — and dinner-table eloquence.

Shawn, sometimes a bit too obviously, is cast in the role of the little guy, the realist to Gregory's mystic and idealist, pleading the necessity of reality, the compensations of the here and now and the reassurance an electric blanket can give on a winter's night. Both as a dialogue and as a film exercise *My Dinner With André* proves a seductive tour de force.

Bertrand Tavernier's *Coup de Torchon* (shown here as *Clean Slate*) is a piquant bit of cross-fertilization. It is based on a novel, *Pop. 1280*, by a pulpy American writer, Jim Thompson, not highly rated in his homeland but much esteemed by French connoisseurs of the roman noir. Tavernier has translated his story of a not too competent sheriff, who one day discovers that murder makes for better civic order, from the American South and the teens of this century to colonialist Africa in 1938.

He has, moreover, very deliberately sought the flavour of local colour and larger-than-life characters. To this end he has chosen as

collaborators the 78-year-old writer Jean Aurenche, who co-scripted with Pierre Bost some of the most famous films of the Forties, and the 76-year-old designer Alexander Trauner, whose film work has included *Le Quai des Brumes*, *Le Jour se Lève* and *Les Enfants du Paradis*. Between them Tavernier, Trauner, the photographer Pierre William Glenn and their Senegalese locations succeed in evoking the atmosphere, the arid land and the killing, nerve-racking boredom of colonial life.

The eccentric personages who people this outpost are led by Philippe Noiret as the ignorant, incompetent and cowardly police chief, who discovers a Mexican, and cathartic role for himself as mass murderer. His co-stars clearly enjoy the chance to play the luridly colourful denizens of this decayed corner of empire: an unusually lively Isabelle Huppert is the policeman's mistress and a characteristically caustic Stéphane Audrey his wife.

Helmut Sanders-Brahms' *No Mercy, No Future* (the original German title *Die Bekehrte*) means "The one who is touched" purports to be a case history — the story of a schizophrenic girl who wrote to the director and asked her to make a film of her story.

The girl, Veronika, spends her life in and out of mental hospitals (which seem neither to have supervision to avoid constant escapes nor to offer any sort of treatment). Out she wanders the seedy streets of Berlin, seeking sexual partners from among the underprivileged and unfortunate Blacks, migrant workers, the aged, crippled or mentally sick. Generally she surprises her pick-ups by asking eagerly if they are Jesus. In a written note on the film, the director explains that the girl "doesn't give away pieces of advice or leaflets, she gives again and again, never tiring, her own self... to go and fill the gap in society with her body, that is, with her physical and mental vulnerability, to melt the huge iceberg of this welfare society with her little body and soul — all she has".

This rather bizarre sense of social purpose is rather less evident in the film itself, which serves mainly to give the actress Elizabeth Stepanek a showy gamut of mad scenes, ranging from glum nymphomania to pelvic ravings and special-effects delirium.

Miss Sanders-Brahms (whose earlier films have included *Shirley's Wedding* and *Germany Pale Mother*) is a distinctive talent but is handicapped by the urge shared with other women film-makers (Liliana Cavani, Lina Wertmüller) to outdo the fellows in shock and sensation. Scenes of massive gynaecological haemorrhage and the slaughter of a hen are not for the over-squeamish.

David Robinson

Richard and Linda Thompson

Dominion

Like Miles Davis, and unlike any other rock guitarist, Richard Thompson can play a single note which makes the journey, the weather, the price of admission and the support act all seem bearable. Such a moment occurred on Wednesday night during "For Shame of Doing Wrong", when he set his Fender Stratocaster to squealing like stung bagpipes and inserted a couple of inconspicuous downward-curling notes, sighs amid the haranguing.

Thompson occupies a position in British rock similar to that of Ry Cooder in America: both are students of ethnic music who see no reason to contrain their love of the pure pop with which they grew up. Their task has been to achieve a reconciliation of the two, and each has grown in strength as he has come closer to the goal. Thompson's rare London appearance was not entirely satisfying, partly because his background in folk clubs gives him a problem, once shared by Cooder, of communicating with larger audiences, but it confirmed the persistence of his vision and ambition.

He was joined by his wife, Linda, who shares the lead and harmony singing by two former colleagues in Fairport Convention, the guitarist Simon Nicol and the drummer Dave Mattacks; and by a bass guitarist, Peter Zorn, whose occasional lack of sensitivity over note-choice

in the improvised sequences made him the quintet's weak link. In general they made a stark, passionate sound, but sometimes I missed the textural leaving once lent to Thompson's music by John Kirkpatrick's accordion.

Perhaps a keyboard player would be an appropriate addition, since Thompson's slow deep-soul ballads ("Two Lonely Hearts", "It's Just the Motion") cry out for the stab and swirl of a Hammond organ, and a piano would flesh out the clipped pop structures of "For Shame" and "Don't Reneg on Our Love". As it stands, however, the group at least allows plenty of space for Thompson's majestic guitar, which blazes through the deeply pessimistic modality of "Night Comes In" with particular assistance from Mattacks, whose spare, heavily syncopated attack provided the ideal dramatic contrast.

Linda Thompson, who once languished in the shadow of her contemporary, the late Sandy Denny, sang with less precision but greater expressiveness than I remember intensifying the tragedy of "The Dimming of the Day" and "Down Where the Drunkards Roll". Her husband's voice, a penny-plum but affecting instrument, was least successful when attempting unmelodic tempo songs like "Honky-Tonk Blues", "The Backstreet Slide" and "The Price of Love", and most appealing when used with Linda's to create an antipodal quietude, as in "The Price of Love" and "The Price of Love".

Richard Williams



Attraction of opposites: the Thompsons

## Television

### Acquired gravity

There have been plays, there has been snooker, there have been forlornly irrelevant party political broadcasts, there has been family viewing in its usual bland abundance, but over the past few days all these things have had to tip-toe round that very different family viewing, the news.

As the week has progressed the regular bulletins have developed qualities to match the gravity of the situation. The BBC and ITN have been forced to use identical film stock, and their commentaries have often been virtually interchangeable. Both have experimented desperately with graphics, with ITN succumbing briefly to the lure of space invader gimmickry. Both have reported responsibly from Buenos Aires, intelligently from Washington and sensitively from Portsmouth.

ITN's modest back-up from Falklands Extra has, on the other hand, inevitably been upstaged by *Newsnight's* impressive capacity to stick close to the heart of the

national and international debates. There has been no tabloid jingoism.

Nothing in recent memory can compare with the ghastly chill which swept through the nation on Tuesday night as John Humphreys's confident introduction to the nine o'clock news was interrupted by the deathly tones of Ian McDonald at the Ministry of Defence. How many men was the Sheffield carrying? How serious was the strategic loss? We watched mesmerized until the awful questions were finally answered. Again and again throughout the evening came the Ministry announcement, again and again the little red dart sped across the water in the training film.

*Travellers in Time* (BBC2) was a little oasis of peace. Everest, said the leader of the British expedition of 1922, was "a mountain made of reverence". Lovingly re-edited with the aid of their diaries, this film gave a wonderful sense of what it must have been like to participate in that heroic failure.

Just to remind us of the passage of time, one of the original oxygen cylinders was dumped on a table with a heavy clunk, and then we were off on ancient trains, swinging across rope bridges, doling out Homburg hats to lamas, watching religious dances, meeting pilgrims marching on their stomachs, drinking butter tea made by smiling bundles of greasy rags, and receiving the blessing of a hermit incarnation of the god Chronogaysay who was pleased because the Britons' goal was simply to get closer to heaven.

Sherpas sank into screams under 120-pound burdens, glaciers looked like the opening set for *Superman*, clouds rushed satanically away from the summit. Mallory (who died there two years later) said his memories were "of a dazed mind incapable of acute perception". Frostdite, windburn, toffee and quails in pate de foie gras were the final rewards.

Michael Church

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## Theatre

### Stuck fast, but not sunk yet

#### On the Rocks

##### Chichester

I Shaw's 1933 extravaganza seemed timely when the *Mermade* revived it in the mid-70s, what now is the work of a piece featuring mass unemployment, strike-breaking legislation and an admiral with an "eye on the Gulf" demanding new warships?

Now, as in 1975, the reason for revival is the hope that Shaw's diagnosis of the Shakespearian might shed some light on our present troubles. And, as before, the main message of the play is one of comfort. Fifty years on, Britain is still in the same bickering, class-ridden mud, still stuck on the same rocks, but not yet sunk.

Like all Shaw's political comedies, *On the Rocks* occupies a privileged zone: in this case 10 Downing Street. It begins with violence from the sounds of the outside, and in the middle the arbiters of the nation's destiny talk and decide nothing. The particular irony in this case is that Shaw had arrived at the opinion that the time for talking had run out and what the country needed was a strong man. As the idea he

had in mind was Russia, it being his view that "liquidation by the OGPU is not punishment: it is an weed-killer in the garden". It is just as well that his dramatic instinct sabotaged his political thinking. But the result certainly is to make the piece seem more frivolously garrulous than usual.

Its plot, like that of *The Apple Cart*, turns on the fraudulent unworkability of democratic government. Like Proteus in that play, Sir Arthur Chavender, heads a Liberal-Conservative coalition hamstrung by internal strife; and like King Magnus he surfaces at half-time with an unparliamentary plan for getting the country out of the hole. In his case it comes after retiring to a Welsh sanctuary to devour the collected works of Marx and takes the form of wholesale nationalization and the expropriation of parasites, which miraculously wins support from everyone except the Conservative leader and the working class, who are incensed at the plans for compulsory labour.

At this point, theory and acidity coincide. Having placed victory in his hero's hands, Shaw cannot bear to face the consequences; and, with the sound of a deflating

balloon, all the PM's supporters troop off in pursuit of the defuncting Conservative leader (hitherto built up as a bullying fool) leaving Chavender to retire for a future of golf and the pious hope that one day his plan will come true, but "I shall hate the man who will carry it through". One salutes Shaw's humanitarian response, but it torpedoes the play.

However, it is imagination, not sensibility, that scuppers the plot. *On the Rocks* contains many echoes from Shaw's other work, but it also shows his anarchic comic gift doing spirited battle with his authoritarian opinions. The separate factions are orchestrated with effortless fluency and the ability to spring surprises.

Jack Emery and Patrick Garland's production excels in this kind of orchestral colour — pitting Lockwood West's mild, baby-faced Admiral against Michael Sadler's supercilious Scottish youngster from the Board of Trade and Nigel Stock's nobly dilapidated Duke. The passage where Mr Stock

faces a biliously enraged class adversary (Cheryl Kennedy) and eagerly confirms all her accusations against his crofter-hounding forbears is one where the Shavian spirit bursts through with all the old generosity.

Keith Michell plays Chavender from first to last as a political matinee idol. That puts him in undisputed control of the first act, particularly when he gets the stage to himself to improvise windy speeches on the sanctity of the family to an enraptured audience of invisible clerics. It lets him down after the Marxist change of heart, particularly when confronted by Aubrey Woods's grim police chief and Arthur English as the old forelock-tugging revolutionist Hipney — a part calculated to steal every scene he gets and played here with a very conviction that goes well beyond the comic boundaries. Congratulations to Pamela Howard for a fine Walpole-dominated set including the front door complete with saluting porter.

Irving Wardle

#### George and Margaret

##### Arts, Cambridge

It is not often nowadays that a play about a middle-class family contains a line like "Have you seen the new maid?" Still less often would her mere servile appearance be expected to reduce the actors and spectators alike to paroxysms of laughter. Those anticipations place the play firmly in an *Upstairs, Downstairs* world of class divisions in a previous British lifetime. But Gerald Savory's comedy of 1935 did not run for two years in the West End and for decades in provincial repertory because it upheld the old ways. Instead, *George and Margaret* flouted conventions, offended the critics and found popularity through cheerful, audacious liberality.

The benign middle classes of Mr Savory's Hampstead are the more witty and more innocent grandparents of David Mercer's boozey artists and sexual athletes, but distinguished by tolerance and free of guilt. Richard Vernon's elegantly befuddled portrayal of the father gives us a man who may not see fit to enquire why the young

housemaid is weeping over the toast at yet who happily accepts her entanglement with his son, the architect. Nor is he dismayed by his daughter's flagrant promiscuity, or his younger son's long hair and artistic vagaries. To be sure all that free love is capped by true love; even Mr Vernon's recounting of an exemplary tale of flirtation with a married woman is proved to be a fabrication for marriage purposes, and marriage does not prevent the next servant from becoming an object of ridicule. Yet the spirit is exultant and celebratory in its open-mindedness.

Pryde's first production as artistic director of the Cambridge Theatre Company is immaculately played. George and Margaret hood, played with great natural detail, and the children practically become archetypes of their era. Kate Nichols breaks through the comic confines of the liberated daughter to bring a touching, throaty seriousness to her performance.

Ned Chaillet

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Nicolai Gedda  
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Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart \*

Cast includes:  
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Yvonne Kenny  
Yvonne Minton  
Diana Montague

Conductor:  
John Tomlinson  
Gösta Winbergh  
Jeffrey Tate

"The Tito we have been waiting for... gripping from first to last"  
Andrew Porter  
8, 10, 13, 19, 23, 28 June;  
1 July (7.30pm)

### Der Freischütz

Carl Maria von Weber \*

Cast includes:  
Helena Döse  
Yvonne Kenny  
Gwynne Howell  
Phillip Joll  
Roderick Kennedy  
Alberto Remedios

Conductor:  
Forbes Robinson  
Jonathan Summers  
Siegfried Vogel  
Colin Davis

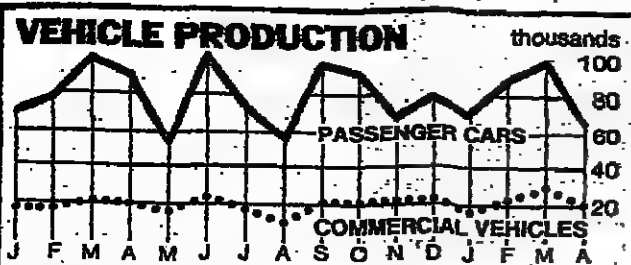
"Marvellous music... outstanding under Colin Davis, idiomatic and heartfelt"  
*Daily Telegraph*  
21, 24, 29 June;  
2, 7, 10 July (7.30pm)

Opera prices £4.50-£20, unless indicated otherwise



[illegible]





Car production in the United Kingdom last month tumbled to 65,000 from 98,000 in March and reflects manufacturers' growing pessimism about the state of the market. The industry is expecting sales this year to total 1.48 million rather than the earlier estimate of 1.52 million. Output of commercial vehicles, however, remains strong and in the first car output in the four months was 321,000 compared with 336,000 in the same period of 1981.

## STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 576.9, up 1.5  
FT 100s 88.28, up 0.61  
FT Allshare 332.54, up 4.02  
Bargains 16.210

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones  
Index: 7,517.63, up 60.47  
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index:  
1,351.08, up 34.89

## INTEREST RATES

Base rates 13%  
3 month interbank 13 1/4-13 1/2  
Euro-currency rates  
3 month dollar 14 1/4-14 1/2  
3 month DM 8 3/4-8 1/2  
3 month Fr 22-21 1/2

## CURRENCIES

● The pound gained on hopes of a diplomatic settlement in the Falklands while the dollar lost ground as expectations of lower interest rates strengthened. The cut in German interest rates had already been discounted and had little impact.

STERLING  
\$1.8205, up 145 points  
Index 90.1, up 0.5  
DM 4.2050  
Fr 10.9800  
Yen 423.50  
DOLLAR 112.2, down 0.4  
DM 2.3075, down 105 pts  
GOLD \$336.25, down 25 cents

## 45 pc rise in house starts

Housing starts during the first quarter of the year surged by 45 per cent over the previous three months and were up by a third over the same period last year, according to the latest statistics published by the Department of the Environment. Provisional figures show that starts were made on 53,400 (seasonally adjusted) houses and flats in the United Kingdom against 40,100 a year ago.

## EEC floats Samurai bond

The EEC, the World Bank and Sweden came to the market for sizable borrowing yesterday. The EEC is floating its first Samurai bond, raising £20,000m (\$85m) over 10 years to help parts of southern Italy hit by the earthquake in November 1980. The World Bank, which is planning to borrow \$27,000m over three years, is raising £25,000m from Japanese banks. Sweden is borrowing \$5,000m over years in two tranches based on American interest rates.

## Profits slump in US

Corporate profits in the United States fell by 17 per cent in the first quarter of 1982 compared with the corresponding three months last year — one of the worst declines on record according to a survey of 579 large companies by the *Wall Street Journal*. Particularly hard hit were the car and steel industry and the oil companies.

## Cheers for brewers

March beer production was up 5.8 per cent over the same month last year, though output in the first quarter of this year was 7.4 per cent down on the same period last year. The Brewers Society has found in these figures a glimmer of encouragement for the trade because reports from individual brewers also indicate a slowdown in the rate of decline in actual sales.

## Israel debt rises

Israel had an external debt of \$13,400m (£9,900m) at the end of last year, up from \$16,700m a year earlier. The country's trade deficit in 1981 was \$4,500m, an increase of 13 per cent "mainly because of arms purchases". Imports, including arms, totalled \$15,300m and exports \$10,800m. The true deficit was unchanged at \$2,200m.

## Deals charge

Mr John A C Dickinson has been charged with dealing in Harris & Sheldon Group securities, contrary to Sections 68 and 72 of the Companies Act 1980. He is also charged with failing to disclose such dealing when a director of an associate company contrary to Section 27 of the Companies Act 1967.

● **IDLE** merchant ship tonnage, 690 ships totalling 41,400 deadweight tons, has trebled in the past year and is at its highest point since September 1978, according to the General Council of British Shipping. The figures reflected the continuing world recession.

● **TALLEN** Engineering, of Newton Aycliffe, Durham, which has doubled its annual turnover by winning a £5m component contract for Ford, is to modernize its factory by buying 10 robots and employing a further 100 people.

● **DU PONT** is to double its world wide capacity for polyester elastomer by building a £33m plant in Luxembourg to manufacture Hytrel for tubing, wire and cable insulation, heating and electrical appliances.

● **JAPAN'S** export letters of credit fell 6.8 per cent in April from a year before to \$8,030m (£4,511m), continuing a downturn that began in January, the Finance Ministry has announced. The pace of decline was a little faster than 4.2 per cent registered in March.

## TODAY

Company results: Interim: Gomme Holdings, J. Heworth, Pochin's City of London Trust (Third interim), Tricentral (First interim), Welco.

Finals: Arrow Chemical, Norman Hay, Northern Goldsmiths, Scottish Ontario Investments, Yorklyde.

## PRICE CHANGES

Lloyds Bank 406, up 5  
GEC 872, up 15  
Shell 414, up 6  
P & O "Dix" 152, up 8  
Aurora Higgs 21, up 3  
Standard Chart 675, up 38

Euro Ferries 79, up 4  
Trident TV "A" 92 1/2, up 4 1/2  
UDS Grp 55, down 18  
Agy Music 98, down 12  
Bambas Stores 36, down 4  
BL Ltd 17, down 1

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The pound ended below its best in Europe after early optimism over the Falklands subsided, but snatched up gains against all leading currencies including a weaker dollar. Shares, after rising sharply in morning trading, finished only slightly better on balance.

But hopes that a budget compromise in the United States will pave the way for lower American interest rates boosted Government stocks, which closed nearly £1 higher.

Reaction in the United States was also positive. At noon the Dow Jones industrial average was 7.14 higher at 301.59 on heavy morning trading in which a huge 32.7 million shares changed hands. Bond prices too moved ahead.

In London the pound closed 1.45 cents higher at \$1.8205 while its trade-weighted index against a basket of currencies rose 0.5 to 90.1 of its average 1975 level.

The dollar ended London trading down just over 1 pence at DM 2.3075, despite a widening of the interest rate differential between the two currencies.

Moves to resolve the United States budget conflict coincide with a call by top international bankers and economists for America to pay more attention to the international consequences of its economic policies.

A statement published today by the prestigious Group of 30 headed by M. Johannes Witteveen, the former director general of the International Monetary Fund, urges the United States to achieve a better mix of monetary and fiscal policies and to abandon its strict policy of not intervening on the foreign exchange markets.

M. Witteveen said yesterday that action was needed urgently to bring down high American interest rates and the dollar.

These were exacerbating the debt problems of developing countries, inflicting severe damage on the United States economy and depressing economic growth in the rest of the world.

Stock market trading opened on a note of euphoria on hopes of an early Falklands peace settlement and of lower international interest rates.

But it soon became apparent that it was marking up by the jobbers, who were said to be short of stock still, that raised prices.

The opening level of the FT 30 index was 12.9 higher, while it had drifted down on lack of buying to finish up only 1.5, at 576.9, by the close of trading.

Gilt, however, remained a cheerful section of the market, because brokers regarded the United States budget compromise as likely to lead to lower interest rates there, and consequently in all international markets. Long and medium dated stocks closed up 1 1/4 points, and short dated stocks were up by 1/4 of a point.

The West German Bundesbank has decided to cut its key lending rate, the Lombard rate, to 9 per cent from 9.5 per cent and announced that it was dismantling the emergency procedure that had empowered its directors to change the rate daily (Peter Norman writes).

Herr Karl-Otto Pohl, the Bundesbank president, said that it had decided to terminate the special Lombard facility introduced in February 1981 and replace it with its traditional Lombard lending instrument.

Leader, page 11

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● A **JOINT** order worth £4m for a flight simulator system for a Boeing 767 has been placed with Rediffusion Simulation, Crawley, by Britannia Airways and the Norwegian operator Braathens.

● **Mr. Graham Ferguson** Lacey (above) and Mr Cecil McBride may face legal action as a result of the collapse of their private investment company and over a share deal with Cook International, which now controls NCC Energy, where they were directors. Cook says the two are in default of personal guarantees in respect of a £3.5m loan and is taking further legal advice. The receiver to Birmingham and Midlands quoted Trust Holdings says he will institute proceedings if the two gave personal guarantees and cannot meet them.

● **AFTER** a critical report from the Monopolies Commission in mid-1979, Wall's and J. Lyons, the ice-cream makers, have given undertakings not to demand retailers be tied exclusively to one supplier.

● **Laurio** needs to buy only 153 shares in House of Fraser to reach the 30 per cent shareholding which would normally trigger a full bid. Yesterday Laurio announced it had bought an additional 283,000 Fraser shares at 150p, bringing its holding to 29,999 per cent.

● **Franchise Services Group**, the international cleaning and maintenance contractor, raised pretax profits by 73 per cent to £6.1m for the year to January.

● **UDS Group's** pretax profit fell from £16.24m to £13.74m last year while turnover dipped from £48.6m to £45.8m. The final dividend was reduced by 60 per cent.

● **Royal Bank of Scotland** reported disappointing half-year profits, down by £200,000 to £43.1m before tax in the six months to March 31.

## Pound and shares lose early gains

## Falklands and US deficit fears hamper markets

By Frances Williams and Sally White

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## Dismal first quarter for BP

By Jonathan Davis  
Energy Correspondent

British Petroleum, Britain's largest industrial company, confirmed stock market fears yesterday by reporting a "very disappointing" first three months trading this year.

Mr Peter Walters, chairman, coupled this with a warning that falling oil prices could paradoxically damage world economic recovery.

At BP's annual meeting, the first since he took over as chairman from Sir David Steel six months ago, Mr Walters said indications over the last few weeks were that oil prices had now stabilized after their recent falls. "We all should certainly hope so for lower prices now would be very destructive to world recovery if they were followed by significant price increases just as the economy were picking up," he said.

Stock brokers are predicting that net income could fall to as little as £125m against £395m in the first quarter last year.

The "temporary" fall in crude oil prices had led to a slackening internationally of the effort to find and develop new sources of energy.

"This is a dangerous thing. Only the development, well in advance, of new sources of oil and coal, as well as the search for new nuclear energy, can ensure that we have the energy we need and that we avoid the violent fluctuations in the price of energy which have been so harmful in the last 10 years."

The firming of oil prices has come too late to prevent what will inevitably be poor profit figures from BP in the first quarter.

The recovery that had begun in the oil marketing and refining business at the end of last year was not sustained, Mr Walters said.

The Iran-Iraq war, world recession, high interest rates and disarray in currency markets had all had a direct impact on performance, but Mr Walters was still confident about the group's long-term prospects.

The National Coal Board is still hoping to press ahead with a long-term plan to develop a £55m coal liquefaction plant, despite BP's decision to drop out of the project because of the deteriorating economics of synthetic fuel developments.

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Walters: Warning on prices

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## Shares drift after early optimism over Falklands

The recent good results helped P & O to 152p, up 8p. But comment and profit-taking on Sainsbury brought the shares back to 635p after Wednesday's good figures, down 15p.

**De La Rue is meeting increasing international competition on security printing, causing analysts to doubt their pretax forecasts of £28m, down 17 per cent. A line of half a million failed to find buyers. The shares fell 10p to 545p.**

102p, up 4p. Insurance shares closed better. General Accident recovered from yesterday's fall after the decline into a loss, up 6p at 294p. Royal was 336p, up 5p, and Commercial Union rose 5p to 131p, ahead of figures next week.

**Sally White**

been encouraging and sales

Sales in the period were

● GEC companies have signed contracts worth more than £40m to supply equipment for the Recife Metropolitan Suburban Railway in

ment scheme.

Sales in the period were

ment scheme.

Figures in this table are shown net of tax on pension per share. Elsewhere in Business News, dividends are shown on a gross basis.

\_\_\_\_\_

**BP has just produced the billionth barrel of oil from the Forties field.**

**BP has developed lubricants for space craft.**

**Last year, a second major oil field in Alaska came on stream.**

**In 1981 BP had to embark on a programme to reduce refinery capacity in Europe by 23%.**

And, as a result of these measures, BP is getting into shape for the realities of

"Nothing that has happened in this last difficult year alters my conviction that our strategy over recent years of broadening the Group's interests and operating base will prove, in times ahead, to have been the right one."

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

**BP Britain at its best.**

Advances exceeded declines three years.

\* Ex div. n Asked. o Sk distributed. k Bid: k Market closed. a New issue. p Stock split.  
l Traded. q Unquote

\* 7 day deposits on sums of  
under \$10,000 11 1/2 %  
\$10,000 up to \$25,000 11 %  
\$25,000 and over 10 1/2 %

28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621-4212

82	Company	Gross	Net	PIE	Full
		Price	Cost	Share	Tax

\_\_\_\_\_

**INTERNATIONAL**

**CHINA**  
Move  
raise  
output

**WEST GER**

**CANADA**

**NGERIA**

**FRANCE**

**VIETNAM**

Profit before  
Profit after  
Profit attri  
sharehold  
Earnings  
Dividend

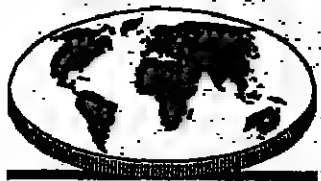
Notes  
1. A share price of  
1.15% (1987)  
2. After tax and  
dividend  
Notes: 1987  
Notes: 1987

Extract from  
The unau  
543.1 mil  
of 243.3 m  
restated  
report. A  
current co  
£27.2 mil  
During tr  
increased  
14.5%, th  
trend ave  
every sign  
has incre  
reflecting  
Despite th  
sector co  
almost a t

The F  
S



## INTERNATIONAL



## CHINA

## Move to raise output

China plans to raise overall industrial output by 4 per cent in 1982, same as it did last year. The country will also increase heavy industrial output by one per cent of value, after a 4.5 per cent fall last year. Light industrial production is set to increase by 7 per cent against a 10.4 per cent rise last year.

Iron and steel production will fall by 12.6 per cent to 3.4 million tonnes to get rid of surplus stocks and concentrate on quality.

## WEST GERMANY

A gap of at least DM5,000m (£1,200m) in federal finances will have to be plugged within the planned 1982 supplementary budget, Herr Otto Lamsdorff, the economics minister, said yesterday.

West German crude steel production fell by 12.6 per cent to 3.4 million tonnes in April but was up from 3.26 million tonnes in April 1981.

## CANADA

Canada's trade surplus widened to a seasonally adjusted C\$1,180m (£543m) in March from C\$981m in February. It was the 23rd consecutive month that Canada's exports exceeded its imports.

Canadian National Railways reported a net loss of C\$67m for the first quarter and said it was introducing significant cost-cutting measures to help redress the problem. The loss — the worst in any one quarter in its history — compares with a first quarter profit of C\$69.9m in 1981.

## NIGERIA

Nigeria has withdrawn its objection to foreign investment in the African Development Bank, enabling 25 more developed nations to become shareholders in the 50-nation corporation.

## FRANCE

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development is predicting 12 per cent inflation and a 2.5 per cent rise in gross domestic product for France in 1982. M. Jacques Delors, Finance Minister, said this compares with a previous OECD estimate of 12.75 per cent inflation.

## VIETNAM

Vietnam has signed an agreement with the Soviet Union on oil and gas insurance as a possible prelude to offshore drilling in Vietnam waters by the Soviet Union.

The Government is attempting to formulate an effective industrial strategy to stem the rising tide of electronic imports which currently produce a trade deficit of more than £300m.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Secretary of State for Industry, has said that such deficits are totally unacceptable and has committed his department to spend more on the high technology industries instead of supporting what he calls the "casualties of the past".

Electronic Engineering Association annual dinner two days ago he was emphatic that positive action was required. He said: "We must channel more resources, more help to the industries upon which the future of this country depends".

The remarks by Mr Jenkin were precipitated largely by the publication last week of a study by the Electronics Economic Development Committee of the National Economic Development Office.

The report, "Policy for the UK Electronics Industry", offered the Government a framework on which it could build its strategy.

The committee concluded that the United Kingdom electronics industry is "in relative decline". That decline has been due to the inability of the British industry to keep pace with the growth of the market. The output of the industry grew 7 per cent each year from 1975 to 1980, compared with a growth in the United Kingdom market of 8 per cent a year and the world market of about 10 per cent. The consequence was a trade deficit of over £300m in 1980, although five years earlier it had been in surplus by £100m.

Despite the growth of the United Kingdom electronics industry in the latter part of the seventies which produced over £7,700m worth of equipment in 1980, it was not sufficient to prevent substantial import penetration. Two of the fastest growing sectors in electronics are information technology (largely computers, telecommunications and related equipment) and consumer electronics. By 1980 these two sectors alone, again through advances made in the technology, had a combined trade deficit of more than £500m. The success of other sectors in the industry and those provided by computer services produced a trade surplus of £200m.

What strategy should be adopted to reverse this trend is the question occupying a number of minds at the Department of Industry. The NEDDY report is "in no doubt that" a combination of current trade would imply a further decline in the United Kingdom share of the world market and an equivalent loss of trade, profit and job opportunities.

The council wants British companies to develop their international competitiveness and has called on government to use its public procurement capability to direct industry. The government is still in the process of preparing its response to the NEDDY report, but Mr Jenkin is prepared to accept that it should be his department's responsibility to bail out uncompetitive companies.

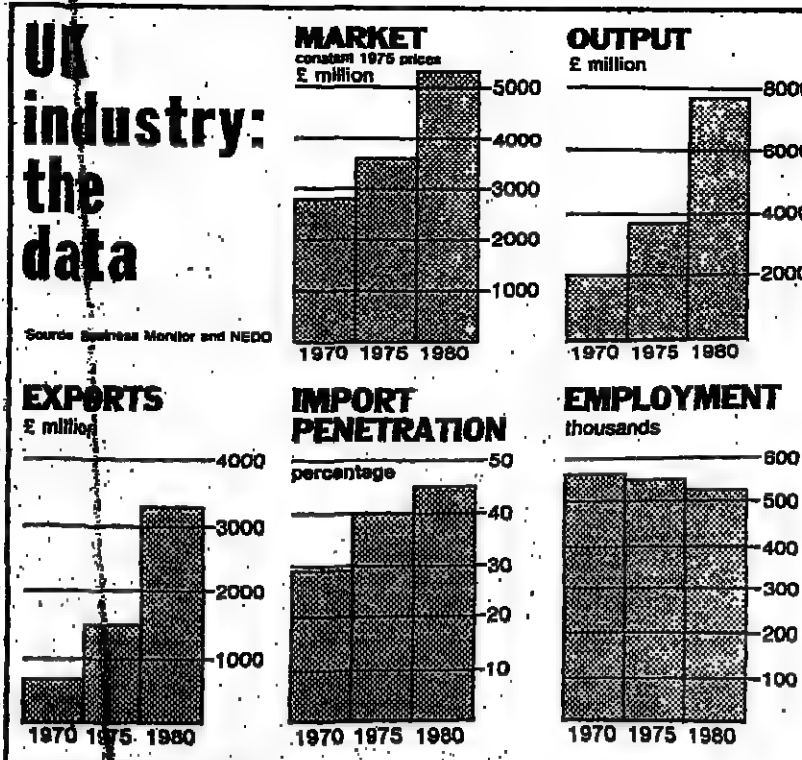
He believes that the ultimate commercial judgement of the market cannot and should not be substituted by "the judgement of ministers and civil servants".

In his speech to the delegates of the Electronic Engineering Association he argued that companies must be responsible for their own fate. He said: "If firms do not have prime responsibility for their own research and development and their own market strategy, surely we will simply perpetuate that costly overdependence of the industry on government patronage which many see as one of the sources of our problems".

What are the principal areas in which the British electronic companies should be channelling their energies? According to Mr Jenkin: "It is the industry that must be prepared to concentrate its energies

## Electronics and the challenges facing Whitehall

● In 1975 Britain exported £100m worth more electronic goods than it imported. Five years later imports exceeded exports by more than £300m. Recently a specialist committee at the National Economic Development Office suggested a framework for government policy towards the industry and this week Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry, revealed the Government's concern over import penetration. Bill Johnstone points to the challenges.



where the prospects are brightest. That may well mean each firm concentrating on that which it does best and leaving the rest to its competitors."

However, any strategy designed to arrest their rising level of imports must encourage the industry to develop new markets, new products and new techniques. Skills that have been refined over years of manufacture are important but it could be argued that they are not enough. Some of the products and the technologies existing in numerous sectors of the electronics industry did not exist five years ago.

New markets and new techniques are increasingly in evidence in the consumer electronics market which has a turnover of £500m in Britain

and employs about 30,000 of the 525,000 people who work in the industry.

The colour television market is one of the most lucrative in the consumer sector. About two million sets are sold each year in Britain — worth more than £350m. But this industry is under threat. The licences held by the creators of the European television system (PAL) which restricted the importation of large screen sets by foreign manufacturers expire next year. Another report which has just been prepared for the National Economic Development Council by the Electronic Consumer Goods working party doubts whether Britain will then be able to compete.

But one of the most serious



Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry (left) and Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Information Technology, preparing the Government's strategy.

deficiencies of the British consumer electronics market lies in the manufacture of video products in the country. Last year over 900,000 videos were rented or sold in Britain and this year that figure is expected to rise to 1.4m.

None is manufactured in Britain on any significant scale at the moment although Thorn-EMI in partnership with the Japanese Victor Company (JVC) intends to build video cassette recorders in Newhaven in Surrey in the near future. The market is shared by the manufacturers of the JVC design (about 65 per cent), Sony (22 per cent) and Philips.

Philips intends to launch its videodisc player on May 26 in London. These players will be made at the company's plant in Hasselt in Belgium. The discs themselves are currently being manufactured at the Mullard factory in Lancashire.

But the large scale importation of video and related products is a subject that has seriously concerned the Department of Industry and many industrialists in the consumer sector. The NEDDY working party expresses its concern, but is optimistic. It says: "The UK is not necessarily out of video for good, but it does mean that the need to make sure of the next mass market product after that becomes particularly pressing". It then stresses that the British industry must transform its colour television set into a more sophisticated product which could include a number of features as standard — remote control, teletext, multi-channel selection, frequency converters for cable television and stereo sound.

But the success of the information technology industries, which have a current trade deficit of £230m, is crucial. By 1990 if nothing was done, the deficit could be as high as £1 bn. These industries are big business. By 1985 the world market will be worth in excess of £120 bn which about 5 per cent will be in Britain.

The Government has already recognized the importance of the industries by appointing a minister, Mr Kenneth Baker, to be in charge of them and by designating this year "Information Technology Year".

But what is the best strategy to be adopted by the Government to encourage growth in the electronics industry? The Government's decision on whether to allow cable television in Britain on a large scale, as recommended by the Information Technology Panel of the Cabinet Office, would provide a unique opportunity.

Government expenditure in electronics already accounts for 46 per cent of all government funding to industry. It is in a unique position to influence the decisions made by companies. The Government is also one of the principal users of high technology products — computers, telecommunications, terminals, and so on. As a major purchaser has the power to influence research.

More than £650m is spent each year within the electronics industry on research and development. At least half of that is provided by government.

Stronger links between industry and government are favoured by NEDDY. It concludes that foreign governments have successfully provided mechanisms which have not been designed to interfere with the technical direction of companies, but encourage them in the development of internationally competitive products.

Any new government strategy for the electronics industry would need to bare this in mind. Those who cannot survive internationally find it increasingly difficult to compete at home faced with technically advanced imports.

This is the challenge that faces a government, traditionally not happy with having intimate relationships with the private sector.

## C. Gordon Tether

## US interest rates: the coming fall

The Reagan Administration continues to insist that the fall in United States interest rates will be within six to eight months.

It has to be recognized that the Americans have not shown themselves disposed hitherto to see the unpopularity abroad of their interest rates policy as a decisive reason for changing it. Other countries' contention that the resulting necessity to maintain their interest rates at levels calculated to inhibit an urgently-needed revival of capital investment has been brushed aside with the argument that there was no obligation on anyone to take their monetary cue from America. But it so happens that they must now be in the process of discovering important reasons of their own for a radical change of course.

During much of the past year, it has been more than a little difficult to make sense of the American position. Washington on the one hand, for United States interest rates, a prediction one day from one prominent member of the administration that a fall was in the offing, was apt to be the subject of a flat denial by another equally prominent member, the next. But during the past month or two a consensus has begun to emerge. President Reagan gave simplistic expression to it a week or two back. He said: "High interest rates have brought this economy to its knees. To get it going again, we have to let business know that we are cutting deficits. That will be the signal business wants."

The implication is that, once arrangements for cutting the Budget deficit have been agreed with Congress — and only then — processes calculated to reduce interest rates will automatically be set in motion. The received wisdom, as the President's words demonstrate, is that high interest rates have pushed America into recession, so bringing them down will clear the way for the economic upswing that was scheduled to take place this spring but so far has been conspicuous by its absence.

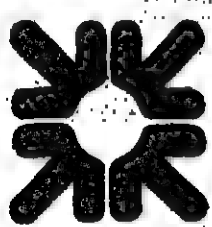
Hopefully, the deficit roadblock will be removed without undue delay. But even if this does not happen, it is hard to see American interest rates staying at their present dizzy heights for much longer. One reason for this is 4 per cent. This means that the clamour from the real rate of interest for outside world for the adoption of a more neighbourly rate of the vicinity of 13 per cent — monetary policy by the United States is growing as the second half of last year.

Other countries do not accept the Reagan team's order would be difficult to theme that he has not justly at the height of an effective control over this rampant boom. No case aspect of economic policy whatsoever can be made out. And as the Canadian prime minister has said, he will be recession that has pushed up reminding Mr Reagan at the United States unemployment summit, that action is overdue on the half-promise that

Between the last quarter of this year and the first quarter of 1982, the American inflation rate was running no drier heights for much longer. One reason for this is 4 per cent. This means that the clamour from the real rate of interest for outside world for the adoption of a more neighbourly rate of the vicinity of 13 per cent — monetary policy by the United States is growing as the second half of last year.

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## The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc

### Interim Results

	6 months ended 31.3.82	6 months ended 31.3.81	12 months ended 30.9.81
Profit before taxation	£43.1m	£43.3m	£107.9m
Profit after taxation (note 1)	£39.5m	£25.3m	£67.0m
Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders (note 2)	£39.3m	£25.8m	£78.3m
Earnings per 25p ordinary share	25.3p	11.2p	41.9p
Dividend per 25p ordinary share	2.8p	2.4p	5.4p

Notes  
1. As a result of accelerated capital allowances in respect of equipment used in the business and assets leased to customers the charge for taxation has been reduced by £10.6m (6 months ended 31 March 1981) — £3.7m, 12 months ended 30 September 1981) — £2.9m. The charge for the current period has also been reduced by a credit of £5.5m in respect of additional capital allowances relieved against profits of the prior year.

2. After excluding an exceptional credit item of £12.5m of a part release of provision for deferred taxation, no longer considered to be required by an associated company.

An exceptional credit item of £2.5m was included in the 12 months ended 30 September 1981 in respect of deferred taxation no longer considered to be required by the Group.

Extract from Interim Statement by the Chairman, Sir Michael Herries

The unaudited profit before taxation, on an historical cost basis, amounted to £43.1 million for the six months ended 31 March 1982. This compares with a profit of £43.3 million for the corresponding period in the previous year which has been restated for the change in accounting for leasing as explained in the 1981 annual report. After adjusting for the effect of inflation the profit before taxation on a current cost basis was £25.1 million and, for the corresponding period last year, £27.2 million.

During the six months ended 31 March 1982 the Group has benefited from increased volumes and, whilst average base rate increased slightly from 14.4% to 14.5%, this has been more than offset by the narrowing of interest margins and the trend away from current accounts to interest bearing deposits. This trend shows every sign of continuing within the current half year. Commission and fee income has shown an encouraging increase but the provision for bad and doubtful debts has increased by £5.3 million over the corresponding period last year thus reflecting the continuing difficult trading conditions in the economy generally. Despite tight control operating costs have continued to rise particularly public sector costs. The share of profits from associated companies has increased by almost a third.

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc Williams & Glyn's Bank plc

## WATERFORD GLASS

Profits up by 29% reports Chairman Patrick W. McGrath

I am particularly pleased to report a return to profit growth. The Group pre-tax profit for the year amounted to over IR£10 million as compared to some IR£3 million in 1980. There was a general improvement in pre-tax profits in all sectors of the Group notably in the retail division. This achievement against a background of continuing recession and high inflation is encouraging but continued effort is necessary to maintain the pressure to overcome the current recessionary trends. Group properties have been revealed resulting in a surplus of IR£20 million.

For the purpose of clearer identification and in order to avoid confusion between the holding company and the manufacturing units, it is proposed to change the name of the company to Waterford Glass Group Limited.

### Waterford Crystal

The lightingware factory came into full production during 1981 and we

have been successful in introducing a large range of new products particularly to the US market. In all, 80% of Waterford crystal is exported. Overall, the crystal division, both manufacturing and distribution, achieved its budgeted results. Although high interest rates prevailed for much of 1981, the US subsidiary turned in an improved performance over the previous year. The UK market remains depressed but it is hoped that the ending of the recession will be more evident in 1982.

### Aynsley China

In spite of the sluggish business climate in the UK, Aynsley has continued to produce at full capacity, embarking on aggressive marketing and production diversification measures.

### Switzer Group

Profits for 1980 were virtually eliminated following a policy of stock rationalisation. These measures were

more than justified in 1981 with the Group's recovery to pre-1980 levels.

### The Smith Group

During 1981, it more than held its place in the market with 9% of new car registrations and is anticipating an improved share during 1982.

### Outlook

It is not possible to predict the outcome for the coming year with any degree of accuracy. The degree of success will depend on the level of recession in the various activities. If we are to be successful in maintaining adequate margins we must record further improvements in sales and profits. Our anticipation must be tempered with caution pending further improvement in the trading climates at home and abroad.

Copies of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from:  
The Secretary,  
Waterford Glass Limited,  
Kilbarney, Waterford,  
Ireland.

### Financial Highlights

	1981 IR£	1980 IR£	%
TURNOVER	190,248,000	154,091,000	+23.5
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	10,359,000	8,051,000	+28.7
EARNINGS PER SHARE	4.10p	2.99p	+37.1
ORDINARY DIVIDEND PER SHARE (NET)	1.51p	1.51p	
TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	80,443,000	53,953,000	+49.1





























